

FRIENDSHIP RELATIONS SURVEY

1. You work with a friend, but some of his mannerisms and habits are getting on your nerves and irritating you. More and more you avoid interacting with or even seeing your friend.
Never 1 (2) 3 4 5 Always
2. In a moment of weakness, you give away a friend's secret. Your friend finds out and calls to ask about it. You admit to it and talk to your friend about how to handle secrets better in the future.
1 2 3 (4) 5
3. You have a friend who never seems to have time for you. You ask him about it, telling him how you feel.
1 2 3 4 (5)
4. Your friend is upset at you because you have inconvenienced him, he tells you how he feels. You tell him he is too sensitive and is over-reacting.
(1) 2 3 4 5
5. You had a disagreement with a friend and now she ignores you whenever she is around you. You decide to ignore her back.
(1) 2 3 4 5
6. A friend has pointed out that you never seem to have time for him. You explain why you have been busy and try for a mutual understanding.
1 2 3 (4) 5
7. At great inconvenience you arrange to take a friend to the doctor's office, when you arrive to pick him up, you find he has decided not to go. You explain to him how you feel, and try to reach an understanding about future favors.
1 2 3 (4) 5
8. You have argued with a friend and are angry with her, ignoring her when you meet. She tells you how she feels and asks about restoring the friendship. You ignore her and walk away.
(1) 2 3 4 5
9. You have a secret that you have told only to your best friend. The next day an acquaintance asks you about the secret. You deny the secret and decide to break off the relationship with your good friend.
(1) 2 3 4 5
10. A friend who works with you tells you about some of your mannerisms and habits that get on her nerves. You discuss these with your friend and look for some possible ways of dealing with the problem.
1 2 3 (4) 5
11. Your best friend gets involved in something illegal that you believe will lead to serious trouble. You decide to tell your friend how you disapprove of his involvement in the situation.
1 2 3 4 (5)
12. In a moment of weakness, you give away a friend's secret. Your friend finds out and calls you to ask about it. You deny it firmly.
(1) 2 3 4 5

13. You have a friend who never seems to have time for you. You decide to forget her and start looking for new friends.
(1) 2 3 4 5
14. You are involved in something illegal, and your friend tells you of her disapproval and fear that you will get in serious trouble. You discuss it with your friend.
1 2 3 4 (5)
15. You work with a friend, but some of her mannerisms and habits are getting on your nerves and irritating you. You explain your feelings to your friend, looking for a mutual solution to the problem.
1 2 3 4 (5)
16. A friend has pointed out that you never seem to have time for him. You walk away.
(1) 2 3 4 5
17. Your best friend gets involved in something illegal that you believe will lead to serious trouble. You decide to mind your own business.
(1) 2 3 4 5
18. Your friend is upset because you have inconvenienced him. He tells you how he feels. You try to understand and agree on a way to keep it from happening again.
(5)
19. You had a disagreement with a friend, and now she ignores you whenever she is around you. You tell her how her actions make you feel and ask about restoring the friendship.
1 2 3 4 (5)
20. A friend who works with you tells you about some of your mannerisms and habits that get on his nerves. You listen and walk away.
(1) 2 3 4 5
21. At great inconvenience, you arrange to take a friend to the doctor's office. When you arrive to pick him up, you find he has decided not to go. You say nothing but resolve never to do any favors for that person again.
(1) 2 3 4 5
22. You have argued with a friend and are angry with her; ignoring her when you meet. She tells you how she feels and asks about restoring the friendship. You discuss ways of maintaining your friendship, even when you disagree.
1 2 3 4 (5)
23. You have a secret that you have told only to your best friend. The next day, an acquaintance asks you about the secret. You call your friend and ask him about it, trying to come to an understanding how to handle secrets better in the future.
1 2 3 4 (5)
24. You are involved in something illegal and your friend tells you of her disapproval and fear that you will get in serious trouble. You tell your friend to mind her own business.
(1) 2 3 4 5
1. You would never act this way. 2. You seldom would act this way.
3. You sometimes would act this way. 4. You frequently would act this way.
5. You always would act this way.

The twenty verbs listed below describe some of the ways people feel and act from time to time. Think of your behavior in interaction with other people. How do you feel and act with other people. Check the five verbs that best describe your behavior in interaction with others as you see it.

☐ acquiesces	☐ disapproves
☒ advises	☐ evades
☐ agrees	☐ initiates
☒ analyzes	☐ judges
☒ assists	☒ leads
☐ concedes	☐ obliges
☐ complies	☐ relinquishes
☒ coordinates	☐ resists
☐ criticizes	☐ retreats
☐ directs	☐ withdraws

There are two underlying factors or traits involved in the list of adjectives. DOMINANCE (Authority or control) and SOCIABILITY (intimacy or friendliness). Most people tend to like to control things (high dominance) or let others control things (low dominance). Similarly, most people tend to be very warm and personable (high sociability) or to be somewhat cold and impersonal (low sociability).

In the following boxes, circle the five adjectives you used to describe yourself in group activities. The set in which three or more adjectives are circled out of the five represents your interpersonal-pattern tendency in that group.

	HIGH DOMINANCE	LOW DOMINANCE
HIGH SOCIABILITY	Advises Coordinates Directs Initiates Leads	Acquiesces Agrees Assists Complies Obliges
LOW SOCIABILITY	Analyzes Criticizes Disapproves Judges Resists	Concedes Evades Relinquishes Retreats Withdraws

FRIENDSHIP RELATIONS SURVEY SCORE SHEET

In the Friendship Relations Survey, there are 12 questions that deal with your willingness to Self-disclose and 12 questions that deal with your ability to receive feedback. Transfer your scores to this answer sheet.

Reverse the scoring for all questions that are starred; that is, if you answered #5, record the score of 1; if you answered 4 record the score of 2; if you answered 3 record the score of 3; if you answered 2 record the score of 4; if you answered 1, record the score of 5. Then add the scores in each column.

Willingness to Self-Disclose

*1. 4
3. 5
*5. 5
7. 4
*9. 5
11. 5
*13. 5
15. 5
*17. 5
19. 5
*21. 5
23. 5
Total. 58

Receptivity to Feedback

2. 4
4. 1
6. 4
*8. 5
10. 4
*12. 5
14. 5
*16. 5
18. 5
*20. 5
22. 5
*24. 5
Total. 53

5-D
3 41
45
47
58
31
38
42
43
8 1345 8 373
433 46

Your Score

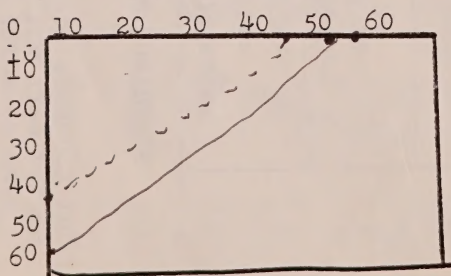
53
+ 58
101

Group Score

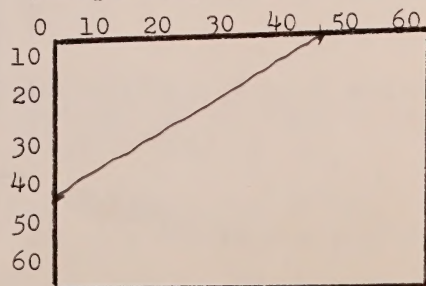
43
+ 46
89

Receptivity to Feedback
Willingness to self-disclose
Interpersonal risk-taking

Receptivity to Feedback



Receptivity to Feedback



Willingness to self-disclose

Willingness to self-disclose

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON

BEFORE YOU APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP:

It is strongly suggested that you take ample and sufficient time to familiarize yourself with the Metropolitan Community Church of Boston, its leaders, its people, and its ministry. Church membership is one of the most serious steps a person can take. It is a life-long commitment which should not be rushed, or taken as routine, or pursued solely on the basis of emotion.

WHEN YOU HAVE MADE YOUR DECISION TO PURSUE MEMBERSHIP:

Fill out this application and return it to the Pastor. She/he will then contact you to discuss your participation in pre-membership workshop(s).

ALL FOLLOWING INFORMATION KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

NAME _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE #s WHERE YOU CAN BE REACHED _____

JOB INFORMATION (OPTIONAL) _____

1. With what denomination were you affiliated before becoming involved with Metropolitan Community Church of Boston?
2. What other denominations have you been affiliated with (if any)?
3. What was the name of, location of, and minister of the last local parish you attended?
4. Are you still affiliated with this or any other church/denomination?
5. Are you a registered, voting member in any other church?
6. Do you intend to maintain membership in your former/present denomination, if you are received into membership in MCC Boston?

(We ask you to consider the reality of supporting more than one church membership/affiliation in terms of regular worship attendance, devotion of time and energy to the work of the church, and pledged financial contribution.)
7. When and where were you baptised? Will you submit a copy of your baptismal certificate if requested?
8. Will you faithfully covenant to make and keep a regular pledge of financial support for the work and ministry of MCC Boston?

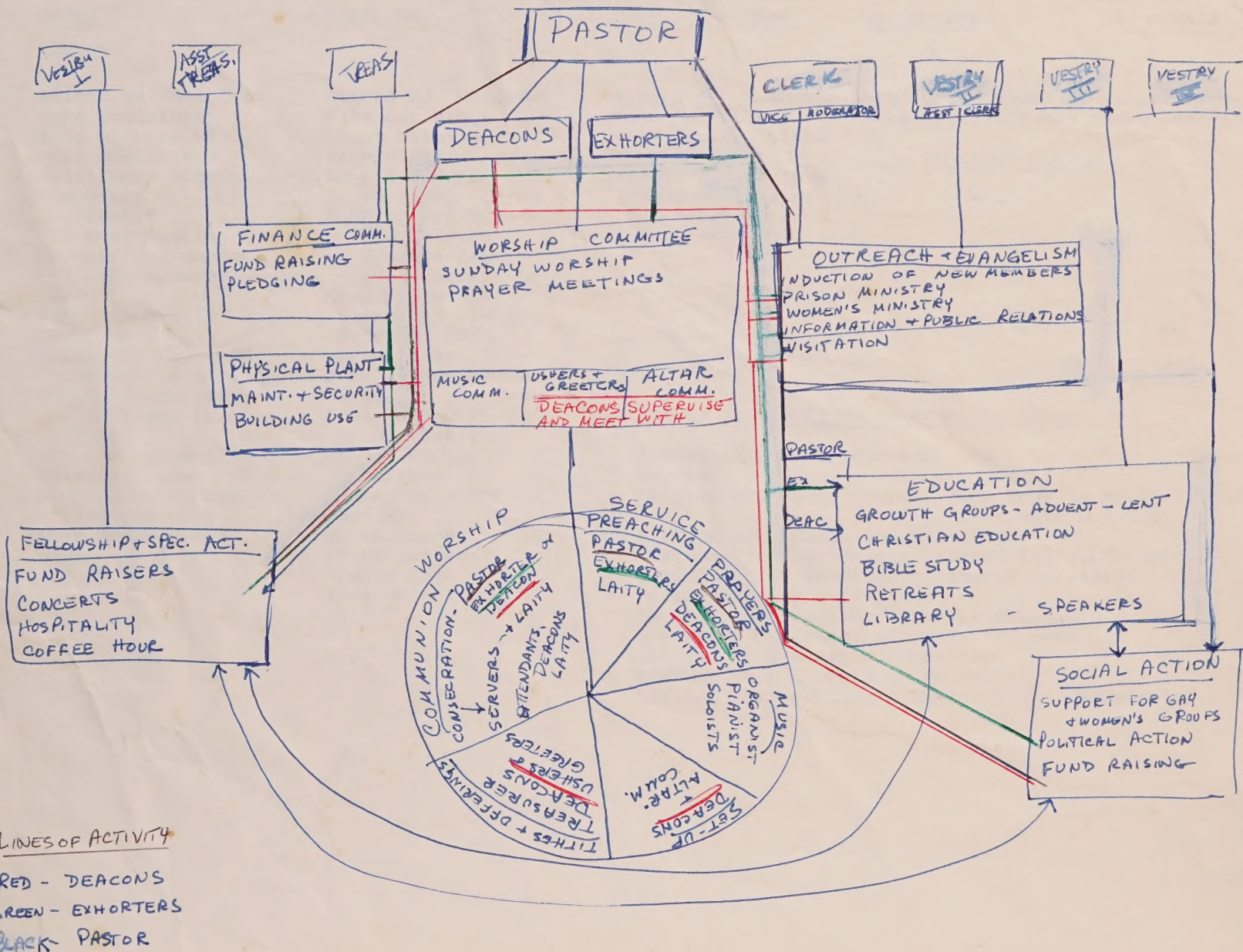
IN YOUR OWN WORDS, PLEASE EXPLAIN:

9. Why do you want to become a member of MCC Boston?

10. What do you expect as a member of MCC Boston?

11. What gifts, services, talents, etc. will you bring to MCC Boston to help further our witness and ministry?

DATE: _____ BY MY SIGNATURE I REQUEST MEMBERSHIP: _____



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CLERK

TREASURER

ASST. TREASURER

BD. MEMBER

BD. MEMBER

DUTIES:

Attend Bd. Meetings
Make Decisions
Keep minutes of
all meetings
Distribute minutes
to Board
Pastor
Congregation
Receive and answer
church correspon-
dence
Keep membership
records
Write for and send
transfer letters
Notify congregation
of meetings in
writing
Get new members'
history forms
Keep church records
filed properly
Meet new members

Attend Bd. Meetings
Make decisions
Count offering
Bank offering
Keep financial
records
Make report of
finances to
Board & Pastor
and Congregation
Keep pastor in-
formed of weekly
offering and
attendance
Draw up annual
budget
Present budget to
cong. meeting
Chair, Budget
Committee
Report to UFMCC
and NED
Write checks
?Fund Raising?
?Petty Cash
?Deacon's Fund

Attend Bd. Meetings
Make Decisions
Keep members tithe
records
Sit on Budget Comm.
Inform members of
financial giving
? Fund Raising?

Attend Bd. Meetings
Make Decisions
Attend Bd.Meets
Make Decisions

No other duties

Things that need to be done (by Board)

Congregational leadership role
Outreach
Liaison with host church (Now done by Ernie through
work with D.I.C.)
Liaison with Christian Education
Liaison with lay delegate/UFMCC laity,NED laity
Social action leadership, shared w. pastor
Fellowshipping activities
Purchase of supplies/forms/printing/etc.
Oversight of church property (if any)
Liaison with Worship Committee
Liaison with Council on Ministries
Liaison with Publicity-Publications (Newsletter,etc.)



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Pastor

DUTIES

WORSHIP

Prepare Worship Format
Preach (2-3X mo.)
Consecrate communion
Oversee service
Choose ushers
servers
Set altar
Choose and xerox hymns
to meet inclusive lang.
requirements
Funerals/Memorial Serv.
(1 so far)
Holy Unions
Participate in worship
at District Conferences
UFMCC conferences
Xerox worship bulletin
Type worship bulletin
Meet with Worship Comm.
Input into schedule
Participate in Community
Worship Services: Gay
Pride Day, Thanks-
giving, Holocaust,
etc.
Upkeep of altar dress-
ings and ware

ADMINISTRATION

Chair Board
Outreach
Newsletter/Pastoral letter
Liaison with host pastors
Purchase of altar supplies/
other supplies
Church mail

UFMCC Duties

Member FFO
Member hymnology comm.
Attend Gen. Conf.

N.E.D. Duties

Attend Dist. Conf.
Plan and prepare
district conferences

GAY COMMUNITY LIAISON

Outreach to organizations
schools
Mayor's Liaison
Liaison with other relig.
organizations: Dignity
Integrity, Am Tikva, etc.
Liaison with Commu. Orgs.

FUND RAISING

Participation
Facilitation
Organization

WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

Attend meetings
Attend soc. activities
Attend classes

COUNSELING

Counseling Members
H.U. Counseling
Commu. counseling
Telephone and/or
crisis counseling
Deaconal counseling/
homeless, hungry

FELLOWSHIPING

Meals with members
Phone contact with
members
Social activities with
members and friends
of church
Social activities with
"prospects"
Social activities with
h.u. couples and their
friends (prospects?)
(counseling? humani-
tarianism? spread of
MCC to areas not served?)

TEACHING

New Member's Class
Supervise/teach
Deacons
Supervise/teach
Student Clergy
Christian education
Groups and
Supervision of
others' groups
Speaking Engagements
Schools
Churches
Soc. Agencies
Hospitals
Organizations
Worship Committee
(church year, liturgy,
themes, etc.)

Continuing Education

B.U.?
Project Place?
MCC Conferences

This to be done in 20 hours per week.

DUTIES

WORSHIP

- ☒ Prepare Worship Format
- Preach (2-3X mo.)
- Consecrate communion
- Oversee service
- ☒ Choose ushers
servers
- ☒ Set altar
- Choose and xerox hymns
- to meet inclusive lang.
requirements
- Funerals/Memorial Serv.
(1 so far)
- Holy Unions —
- Participate in worship
at District Conferences
UFMCC conferences
- ☒ Xerox worship bulletin
- ☒ Type worship bulletin
- ☒ Meet with Worship Comm.
- Input into schedule
- Participate in Community
Worship Services: Gay
- ☒ Pride Day, Thanks-
giving, Holocaust,
etc.
- ☒ Upkeep of altar dress-
ings and ware

ADMINISTRATION

- ☒ Chair Board
- Outreach
- Newsletter/Pastoral letter
- Liaison with host pastors
- ☒ Purchase of altar supplies/
other supplies
- Church mail

UFMCC Duties

- Member FFO
- ☒ Member hymnology comm.
- Attend Gen. Conf.

N.E.D. Duties

- Attend Dist. Conf.
- Plan and prepare
district conferences

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- Outreach to organizations
schools
Mayor's Liaison
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organizations: Dignity
Integrity, Am Tikva, etc.
- Liaison with Commu. Orgs.

FUND RAISING

- Participation
- Facilitation
- Organization

WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

- Attend meetings
- Attend soc. activities
- Attend classes

COUNSELING

- ☒ Counseling Members
- H.U. Counseling
- Commu. counseling
- Telephone and/or
crisis counseling
- Deaconal counseling/
homeless, hungry

FELLOWSHIPING

- Meals with members
- Phone contact with
members
- Social activities with
members and friends
of church
- Social activities with
"prospects"
- Social activities with
h.u. couples and their
friends (prospects?)
(counseling? humani-
tarianism? spread of
MCC to areas not served?)

TEACHING

- New Member's Class
- Supervise/teach
Deacons
- Supervise/teach
Student Clergy
- Christian education
Groups and
Supervision of
others' groups
- Speaking Engagements
Schools
Churches
Soc. Agencies
Hospitals
Organizations
- Worship Committee
(church year, liturgy,
themes, etc.)

Continuing Education

- B.U.?
- Project Place?
- MCC Conferences

This to be done in 20 hours per week.

I wish the church would

I wish the pastor would

I wish the Vestry would

I wish I could

Usually I find the worship service to be

- ___ a joyful experience
- ___ a dull, lifeless, and uninspiring experience
- ___ somewhere in between these two

Today the sermon

- ___ spoke directly to the concerns and questions I brought with me
- ___ was interesting, but not especially relevant to me
- ___ was neither interesting nor helpful

The most meaningful part of today's worship experience for me was (please check one)

- ___ congregational singing
- ___ prayers
- ___ sermon
- ___ confessions
- ___ being a part of this worshipping community
- ___ simply the chance to be here worshipping God
- ___ the communion
- ___ the familiarity of the service
- ___ Other _____

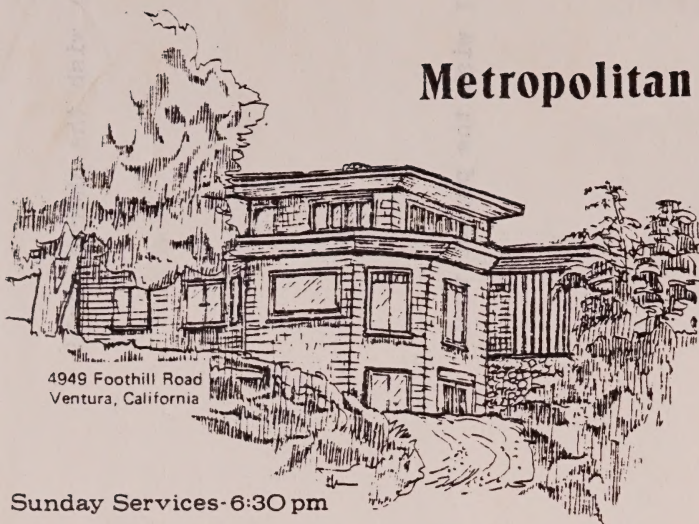
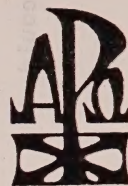
I would like to see the worship service improved by _____

I think vestments are _____

I think our music is _____

Metropolitan Community Church

OF VENTURA



4949 Foothill Road
Ventura, California

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

Mailing Address:

Box A-0

Ventura, Ca. 93001

805-485-9994

Sunday Services-6:30 pm

Laugh together, cry together; work together and play together. Proclaim your love openly, both in words and actions. Let the union of your bodies be a means of expressing the love which overflows from the joining of your minds and hearts. Do these things with the knowledge that on this day you joined yourselves to one another in a relationship based on love.

As you have mutually assumed this Holy Covenant, I do as minister of the Metropolitan Community Church, pronounce you joined in Holy Union in the name of the One God, Our Creator, the Christ and the Holy Spirit. Those whom God hath joined together let no one put asunder.

BENEDICTION: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May God's countenance be upon you and give you peace, now and forever.
Amen.

_____ and

_____ and

Witnesses

Reverend Marjorie F. Ragona
Pastor,
Metropolitan Community Church

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

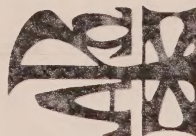
OF PROVIDENCE

HOLY UNION

Because this Holy Union is an honorable and joyous occasion, yet a sacred commitment, it should be entered into thoughtfully, advisedly, and discreetly. At this time we are gathered in the sight of a Loving God and this community of friends to witness two people enter into a covenant with each other and with God which will reflect their feelings about each other and about that God.

LET US PRAY: Loving God; we humbly ask you to be present with us at this most sacred occasion. We seek Your blessing for these two people who are about to enter into a covenant relationship with each other, promising to uphold and guard each other throughout a lifetime together. We know our human weaknesses and our fallibility. We know that we are often led astray by our needs and desires. Guard the relationship of these two people, that it may be an upholding one and a cherishing one. Make them truly loving and gentle in their regard for the other's dignity and integrity. Cherish them, Lord, and keep them in your sight forever.
Amen.

In the Old Testament, Ruth and Naomi are a model for relationships between women. When Naomi tried to send Ruth back to her own people, Ruth's response was:



Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee, for whither thou goest, I will go and where thou lodgest, I will lodge; Thy people shall be my people and thy God my God. Where thou diest, I will die and there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me and more also, if even death parts me and thee.

Paul described LOVE in these words:

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends... So faith, hope and love abide, these three, but the greatest of these is love.

Do you _____, take to share your life in a covenant of love. Will you therefore love and comfort her, forgive and uphold her, guard her dignity as your own, and forsaking all other ties, keep only to her in steadfast love, as long as you both shall live?

Response: I WILL.

What tokens of sincerity do you have? (Rings)

These rings are symbols of completeness and emblems of eternity. They are metal that has been tested and proven true. They are fitting symbols of your love for each other. May your love and faith prove as true in the test of time as gold does in fire, and may they endure until death do you part.

These rings mark the beginnings of a life journey together filled with wonder, surprises, laughter, tears, celebration, grief and joy. May they be a sign to you of the continuing love you have pledged to one another today.

LET US PRAY: Lord, we ask you to bless these rings; may they be truly the never-ending circle of love they represent, and may that love be as strong as their metal, with your help. In Jesus' name. Amen.

EXCHANGE OF RINGS: I, _____ take you _____ as my beloved, to love, respect and cherish for the rest of my life. Wear this ring as a symbol of our union and a sign to all the world of our love and devotion to one another. I proclaim my trust in you; I proclaim my love for you; I am happy to be a part of you. Whenever I see your ring, I will remember all that I have pledged to you here this day.

I charge you, _____ and _____ to maintain the capacity for wonder, for spontaneity, for humor. To remain flexible, warm and sensitive. Give fully to each other, show your feelings for one another. Save time for each other, no matter what demands are made upon your day. I charge you to nurture each other to fullness and wholeness, realizing that each of you will need at times to bring strength and support and worth to the other. I charge you, as you grow to love each other more deeply, to discover out of this love, a love for all creation in which the mystery of your love has happened.

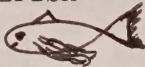
You have exchanged promises; you have sought God's blessing; You have united yourselves in the sight of God. The road you have chosen is not an easy one; therefore look to God for guidance, for sometimes you may be in doubt. Look to God for strength, for sometimes you may weaken; Look to God for understanding, for sometimes you may fall. Look to God through each other for all that is really important in your relationship.

excerpts from

PRAYERS FROM THE ARK/THE CREATURES' CHOIR

I ran into a small book of prayers, written by a French nun, and translated by Rumer Goddan. See if you can see yourself and/or your own needs in one of these:

PRAYER OF THE GOLDFISH



O God,
forever I turn in this hard crystal,
so transparent, yet I can find no
way out. Lord, deliver me from the
cramp of this water and these terri-
fying things I see through it. Put
me back in the play of Your torrents,
in your limpid springs. Let me no
longer be a little goldfish in its
prison of glass, but a living spark
in the gentleness of Your reeds.

PRAYER OF THE
ROOSTER



Do not forget, Lord,
it is I who make
the sun rise. I am
your servant but,
with the dignity
of my calling,
I need some glitter
and ostentation.
Noblesse oblige...
All the same,
I am Your servant,
only....do not forget,
Lord,
I make the sun rise.

PRAYER OF THE
RAVEN



I believe, Lord
I believe!
It is faith
that saves us,
You have said it!
I believe the world
was made for me,
because as it dies
I thrive on it.
My undertaker's black
is in keeping
with my cynical
old heart.
Raven land is
between You and that life down there, for whose end I wait to

THE STARFISH



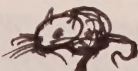
Lord, your deep has closed
over me. Am I some small
Lucifer fallen from heaven
and left to be tormented by
the waves? Look, Lord, I
seem to be a star of blood.
I try to remember my lost
royalty but in vain. Creep-
ing over the sand, I spread
my star-points wide and dream,
dream, dream,...Lord, an angel
could root me up from the
bottom of the sea and set me
back in Your sky. Oh!
One day could that be?

PRAYER OF THE OX

Dear God, give me
time.

Humans are always
so driven!
Make them understand
that I can never
hurry!
Give me time to eat.
Give me time to plod.
Give me time to sleep.
Give me time
to think.

PRAYER OF THE MOUSE



I am so little and grey, dear God,
how can You keep me in mind? Always
spied upon, always chased. Nobody
ever gives me anything, and I nibble
meagerly at life. Why do they reproach
me with being a mouse? Who made me but
YOU? I only ask to stay hidden. Give
me my hunger's pittance safe from the
claws of that devil with green eyes!

gratify myself.

"Aha!" I cry. "Before me,
the flood." What a feast!
I shall never go back
to the Ark...
Oh! let it die in me --
this horrible nostalgia!

God's love
to all of us,

Sheila

51, Pembroke Street,
Newton, Mass. 02158

Rev. Marge Ragona
Metropolitan Community Church
131, Cambridge Street,
Boston, Mass. 02114

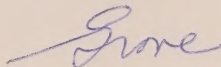
11/8/83

Dear Marge,

This summer I have been the victim of a sudden illness in the ~~form~~ of an intestinal virus which certainly has taken its toll. Consequently have had to take it very easy and cut back on my activities. Have seen the doctor with a satisfactory check-up. However, progress has been slow due to our long heat spell. Will return to MCC when I am able but ~~feel~~ that playing the piano regularly and consistently every Sunday from now on is not possible as I will be needed in other areas on Sundays beginning in September. Will talk about this more when I see you.

Hoping you have had a pleasant summer,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Benards
Box 583
Westbrook ME
04092

Jim Hayes
c/o McC Boston
131 Cambridge St
Boston Ma 02114

July 25, 1983

TO: All Northeast District Lay Representatives and Interested Parties

From: Julie Benavides, Northeast District Lay Rep. to the Fellowship Finance Committee

Enclosed please find copies of the budget as approved by the General Conference of the UFMCC and also the recommendations submitted by the Fellowship Finance Committee which were approved by the Conference.

As you recall, before conference, an executive committee of the FFC had prepared a budget outline and for two days at the conference we held hearings on the budget. Then the committee worked for many hours to consider these requests and to balance the budget. If you compare the approved budget with the outline which I handed out at the last District Conference, you will notice that the estimated income is substantially less than initially estimated. This meant that we were faced with the difficult task of cutting funding. It was a painful process, but I am encouraged that for the first time your representatives were involved in the process and for the first time in a long time I can assure you that the budget is realistic and does not promise funding to programs or people that will never be available. I have faith that the fellowship can survive on this budget and with these controls and with the potential growth in the fellowship perhaps we can even build up a reserve, so that the next committee will be faced with choices on who gets additional funding, not who will have their funding cut.

This process is new and the committee felt at a disadvantage because we did not have the kind of historical information or comparative data which would have helped us to make decisions. Plus, I am disappointed that more people did not make use of the opportunity to give us feedback. But I am pleased at the concern and maturity of the other members of the committee and I am comfortable with the budget which we presented to the conference.

I would like to thank the lay people of the district for the opportunity to serve as your representative. Please feel free to contact me with any feedback or questions you may have and I will also be available at the October District Conference to discuss the FFC.

cc: Reid Christensen, Chairperson FFC
Willie White, Clergy Representative NED

PROPOSED BUDGETS

REVENUES

		Oct '83- Mar '84*	Apr '84- Mar '85	Apr '85- Mar '86
5000	Tithes	\$157,500	\$330,000	\$360,000
5030	Undesignated	3,000	6,000	6,000
5060	Founder's Day	4,000	5,000	6,000
5070	World Church Extension	8,000	8,000	16,000
5080	Samaritan Educational Center	-0-	-0-	-0-
51--	Designated	50,000	50,000	50,000
5700	Publications	12,000	30,000	38,000
5800	Church Services	4,000	12,000	12,000
	TOTALS	<u>\$188,500</u>	<u>\$391,000</u>	<u>\$438,000</u>
		<u>238,500</u>	<u>441,000</u>	<u>488,000</u>

EXPENDITURES

-10	General	\$137,974	\$287,633	\$309,741
-15	Church Services	(No Budget Requested)		
-20	Publications	11,585	26,825	29,925
-25	Fund Raising	(No Budget Requested)		
-28	Public Relations	(No Budget Requested)		
-30	World Church Extension	10,850	23,310	24,880
	(Self-Liquidating)			
-40	General Conference			
-42	Other Conferences			
-46	Health Insurance			
-48	Media-TV Special			
	(Commissions)			
-50	Faith, Fellowship & Order**	750	925	1,025
-52	Laity	300	600	670
-54	Gov't Structures & Systems	(No Budget Requested)		
-56	Special Ministries	450	900	1,030
	(Committees)			
-60	By-Laws**	(No Budget Requested)		
-62	Clergy Credentials & Concerns**	1,800	5,000	2,600
-64	Fellowship Finance	1,260	1,350	1,550
-68	Hymnody	(No Budget Requested)		
	(Departments)			
-70	Christian Social Action	350	600	600
-72	Ecumenical Relations	1,175	2,350	700
-74	Institutional Ministries	(No Budget Requested)		
-76	Third World	900	1,800	1,800
	(Institutions)			
-80	Samaritan Educational Center	15,000	30,000	30,000
-84	Spiritual Life/ Clergy Care Center			
	TOTALS	<u>\$182,394</u>	<u>\$381,293</u>	<u>\$404,521</u>
		<u>332,394</u>	<u>431,293</u>	<u>454,521</u>
	Excess Revenues over Expenditures	\$ 6,106	\$ 9,707	\$ 33,479
	Debt Retirement	6,000	9,500	10,500
	Building Fund	106	207	22,979

* 6 month period

** Standing Commissions and Committees per By-Laws

*** From Designated offerings only

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

passed

I. To assist the Fellowship treasurer we recommend creation of a Fellowship Finance Review Board. This board is to consist of an elected lay and clergy representative from each recognized district, plus the appointed Fellowship Finance Committee. Districts should elect their representatives at their business meeting immediately prior to General Conference with the newly elected individuals taking office immediately. They shall be elected for a two year term. The purpose of this board will be to conduct budget hearings at General Conference, formulating a final budget to be presented to the conference floor and to serve as disseminators of Fellowship budget and financial information within their respective districts.

To assist the Fellowship treasurer we recommend a permanent Fellowship Finance Committee. This committee is to consist of five people, four being appointed by the Board of Elders, from the Fellowship Finance Review Board and a fifth being the current Fellowship treasurer. Of the four appointees, two shall be laypeople, two shall be clergy. One each shall be appointed bi-annually for a four year period and a chairperson shall be named each year. The purpose of this committee will be to draft preliminary budget proposals for the larger Fellowship Finance Review Board, provide expertise in analysis and feedback information concerning Fellowship treasurer.

II. During the fourth quarter of any fiscal year, the Fellowship Finance Committee shall make recommendations to the Board of Elders on the implementation of the budget for the next fiscal year. These recommendations will become effective subject to the approval of the Board of Elders.

NOTE: (One step in this process is for the Fellowship Finance Committee to receive/review appeals from those who administer fund, i.e., director of administration, heads of commissions, committee, etc.)

passed

III. Any UFMCC congregation with a total of ^{two} ~~three~~ months of Fellowship or district tithes unpaid at the time any General or District Conference is called to order shall be denied the privilege of seating their lay delegate(s) to participate in conference business until such time as the treasurer (or, in the absence of the treasurer, other officer of the appropriate jurisdiction) affirms to the conference that the congregation is less than two months in arrears in the payment of such tithes. Any exception of this policy for any congregation must be based upon substantial extenuating circumstances and upon acceptance by the treasurer of a repayment plan. Such exception must be moved to the conference by the treasurer of the appropriate jurisdiction and must be approved by two-thirds of each house of the conference.

Filed out of order

~~IV. Since the clergy of the Fellowship is expected to assist in teaching congregations their spiritual responsibilities, the clergy who are members of any congregation with the total of two months Fellowship or District tithes unpaid at the time of a Fellowship or District Conference is called to order shall be denied a seat on the floor of the Fellowship or District Conference until such time as the treasurer (or, in the absence of the treasurer, other officer of the appropriate jurisdiction) affirms to the conference that the congregation is less than three months in arrears for the payment of such tithes.~~

~~Any exception of this policy for any congregation must be based on substantial extenuating circumstances and upon acceptance by the treasurer of a repayment plan. Such exception must be moved to the conference by the treasurer of the appropriate jurisdiction and must be approved by two-thirds of each house of the conference.~~

passed with deductions

V. An explanation of 'Designated Funds'. If at the time of contribution, monies are designated in writing for a specific purpose, then the monies constitute designated fund income. If a fund raising type action is advised as benefitting a specific purpose or fund, then the gross income of that activity is designated fund income. ~~If the group 'borrows' from designated funds (with or without the donors permission), the amount of such borrowing, if not paid back within one year, shall be regarded as a non-designated fund income to the extent not paid back. In the instance of funds not paid back within one year, when the principal of such funds is paid back, non-designated funds income shall be reduced by the principal amount of such paid back.~~

~~Income to certain designated funds is not subject to tithing in UFMCC. Those funds which are not subject to tithing include funds whose purpose is: 1) purchase of a church building (or equivalent property); 2) improvement of such property if the title is held by a UFMCC group; 3) principal payments on ushc property; 4) care and feeding of infants, the ill, needy or elderly, i.e., Deacon's Fund.~~

Income contributions, etc. may be in the form of services, property, the use of property or monies. Income in the form of services or use of property is non-titheable.. Income in the form of property is not titheable unless and until the group converts the property to money. Money includes, cash, checks, credits and substantial equivalent. Interest payments on mortgages are equivalent to rent on non-owned property. Repairs and maintenance are not affected by ownership status.

passed.

VI. No person or organization may raise monies in the name of the Fellowship or in the name of an instrumentality of the Universal Fellowship without express approval of the Board of Elders. The Fellowship Finance Committee shall develop procedures for the Board of Elders by which this process may be handled in accordance with the standards of proper stewardship.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON
131 Cambridge Street Boston, Mass. 02114
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (617) 523-7664

5th Sunday in Christ's Dominion September 27, 1981

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: God is my light and my salvation
whom should I fear?

P: God is my life's refuge: of whom should I be
afraid?

L: When the evil come at me, seeking to devour me,
my foes and my enemies shall stumble and fall.

P: Though an army encamp against me, I will not fear;
though war be waged against me, I will not be
afraid.

L: One thing I ask of God and this do I seek: To
dwell in the house of God all the days of my life.

P: I would gaze upon the loveliness of God and
contemplate God's temple.

L: God will hide me in this abode in the day of
trouble, and conceal me as in the shelter of a
tent.

P: God will set me high upon a rock, and hold my
head high, even when there are enemies on every
side.

L: I will offer sacrifices in this tent and shouts
of gladness.

P: I will sing and chant praise to our God.

OPENING HYMN: Day Is Dying in the West #503
(In v. 1 change her to the;
In v2,4, change Lord to God)

Chorus: Holy, holy, holy, Great God of hosts!
Heaven and earth are full of thee!
Heaven and earth are praising thee,
O God most high!

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INVOCATION

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE

SERMON

Ms. Bette Spear

HYMN:

Worship with our Tithes and Offerings
Doxology

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE: Hear Our Prayers, O God

COMMUNION HYMN: In The Cross of Christ I Glory #416

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, cease us from running
long enough to wait upon your timelessness. Deepen
us down to listen for your coming among us. Give
us honesty to know our own needs and compassion
to know the needs of others. Make us mindful of
the needs of the lonely and the sick, the burdened
and the empty among us. We are often frightened
by the purposeless lives we lead; and in our rushing
we have few silences to hear your voice, little
place for your presence, little time for your truths.
Our way is tangled, our boasting foolish, our truth-
telling incomplete. Forgive us and make us whole
that we may have glad hearts, be held in your strength
and covered by your mercy. Show us the way of
laughter, rejoicing and peace; teach us to love.
Blessed be your holy name forever, through Jesus
Christ who taught us to pray, saying "Our Creator,
in heaven, hallowed be your name. May your dominion
come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give
us our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we for-
give those who sin against us. Save us from the
time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the
reign, the power, and the glory are yours, now and
forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks and praise to God.

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna
in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the
name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

SUNG THANKSGIVING: Now our God is with us, let us
make thanksgiving, for the joy within us living.
In this holy temple, at this holy table, hope and
life God will enable. Now we leave and believe,
that God will restore us, for the work before us.

CLOSING HYMN:

BENEDICTION

Metropolitan Community Church of Boston
131 Cambridge Street Boston, MA. 02114
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (617) 523-7664
First Sunday in Advent November 28, 1982

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Unto you, O God, I lift up
my soul.

P: I trust in you, O God; let me not be ashamed,
neither let my enemies triumph over me.

L: Yes, let none that attend you be ashamed; but
let those be ashamed who transgress without
cause.

P: Show me your ways, O God; teach me your paths.

L: Lead me in the truth, and teach me; for you
are the God of my salvation; I attend you
all the day.

P: Remember, O God, your tender mercies and
loving-kindness; for they have existed eternally

L: Do not remember the evil I did when I was
young, nor my transgressions; according to your
mercy remember me, for you are good.

P: Good and upright is our God; therefore God will
teach us the good path.

L: God will guide the humble; those who are obe-
dient will learn the way,

P: All the paths of God are mercy and truth to
those who keep God's covenant and God's way.

OPENING HYMN: Come, O Thou God of Grace #352
(Change very last line to "To thee, Our God we
sing all praise in heaven.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME
PRAYER OF INVOCATION

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 33:14-16
I Thess 3:9-4:2
Luke 21:25-36

Sermon: Anticipation/Preparation Michael Dain
Student Clergy

HYMN: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #354

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE: Hear Our Prayers, O God

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

RESPONSE: We give thee but thine own
Whate'er the gift may be
All that we have is thine alone,
A trust, O God, from thee. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN: Break Thou The Bread of Life #369

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Dear God, we approach you
again, seeking forgiveness for our sins; our pride,
which comes from not loving you as we should; our
lack of love for others, which comes from not acknow-
ledging your love for all of us. Prepare us to
truly love you, directly and through your human
creations, for you are in all. You took on human
flesh and became one of us, experiencing our failings
and limitations, sanctifying and redeeming all
creation. In your boundless mercy, help us to re-
pent fully of the hurt we have caused you in harming
others, and make us seek your forgiveness. We ask
this in the name of Jesus, who walked with humanity
to bring salvation and taught us to pray, "Our God
in heaven, holy be your name. Your dominion come,
your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give
us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not
bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil, for
yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and
forever, Amen.

BREAKING OF BREAD/BLESSING OF THE CUP

SUNG THANKSGIVING:

Now our God is with us let us make thanksgiving
For the joy within us living
In this holy temple, at this holy table
Hope and life God will enable.
Now we leave and believe that God will restore us
For the work before us. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: Love Divine

#283

BENEDICTION

* * * * *
Please join us for coffee and conversation in the
parlor after the service. A theater group is meeting
downstairs.

HARRY BRILL, gay Supervisor for San Francisco will be
speaking here Friday night. This is a fund raiser for
MCC Boston and the Socialist Democrats -- a coalition
of Progressive Democrats, Socialists, feminists and
trade union members.

MONDAY: No new members' class.

TUESDAY: Beginning On Being a Musical Mystical Bear,
to continue our study of prayer.

NEXT SUNDAY: Continuing our study of Luke with Richard
Creasy leading. In the parlor at 6:00 p.m.

12/9: Ministerial Team meeting at Lou Philpot's.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF VENTURA
P.O. BOX A-0 Ventura, Calif. 93002
(805) 485-9994 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor
MEETS AT 4949 FOOTHILL ROAD
October 12, 1980 ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY

SINGSPIRATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: (The DE PROFUNDUS)

- L. Out of the depths have I cried unto you, O God.
P. God, hear my voice; let your ears be attentive
to the sound of my supplications.
L: If you, God, keep count of our iniquities, who
shall stand?
P: But there is forgiveness with you, that we are
mindful of you.
L: I wait for you, O God; my soul waits, and in
your word I find hope.
P: My soul waits for God even more than those who
watch for morning: so much more than those who
wait for the morning.
L: Let us hope in God: for with God there is
mercy, with God there is plentiful redemption.
P: God shall redeem us from our iniquities. Amen.

OPENING HYMN: O GOD OUR HELP IN AGES PAST #7

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Jonah 3:1-5, 10, 4:1
Acts 1:8
Luke 10:30-37

SERMON: Angry with God's Salvation?
Rev. Bob Arthur, District Coordinator

HYMN: THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS #56

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We give thee but thine own
Whate'er the gift may be
All that we have is thine alone,
A trust, O God, from thee. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN: THE CHURCH WITHIN US #54

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Almighty God, what can we
say to you? We are as we are: sometimes broken
and torn, having no love for you; sometimes
plump and self-satisfied, having no need of you;
sometimes empty and afraid, having no trust in
you. We are as we are: seldom having sought you
seriously, seldom having listened to you earnest-
ly, seldom having followed you faithfully. We
are as we are. We pray you, God, work your
ministry of healing: mend our bodies, set our
minds free, make our hearts glad. Enter us, O
God. Astonish us. Overcome us. Be heaven in
us this day and forever more through Jesus Christ
our mercy, our pardon, and our peace, who taught
us to pray, saying "Our..."

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

THE INVITATION:

- L: The Lord be with you.
P: AND ALSO WITH YOU.
L: Lift up your hearts.
P: WE LIFT THEM UP UNTO THE LORD.
L: Let us give thanks unto the Lord.
P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

THE SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of
power and might, heaven and earth is full of
your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed
is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

CLOSING HYMN: PASS IT ON #17

BENEDICTION/PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE: WHAT A FELLOWSHIP #33

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Our guest preacher tonight is Rev. Bob Arthur, our district coordinator. We welcome him as representative of the Fellowship on this the 12th Anniversary of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

It is fitting that Rev. Arthur is with us tonight, because he has been heading the Gay Cuban Refugee program. Tonight we can announce to you that two gay Cubans have joined our family, arriving this weekend. They will be staying with Chan Ward. Please offer any help you can. There are many small things they will need. Let us all try to help in as many ways as we can. We will be letting you know specific needs as quickly as they arise.

We held our annual Congregational meeting today; and elected our delegate to conferences and two additional board members. We also took some time to discuss the church budget, and propose a new budget for the year. You will hear the announcement of our church officers for the coming year.

Our Rap this evening is entitled: The Gay Adolescent Please stay and rap with us about gay youth, our pasts as gay youth, and some controversial topics about sexuality and gay youth. We'll have coffee and cake, wine and cheese following the service then go into the rap.

DANCE, DANCE, DANCE: Our Hallowe'en Dance will be November 1st -- the day following Hallowe'en, but we never let a little thing like that stop us. Come as you always wanted to be!! Tell your friends too. This dance will benefit the Norton 8 Women, and the Santa Barbara Gay Community Services Center.

Bring out your squarest drag, your best shirt, tie and suit jacket. Shuffle into that skirt you keep hidden way back in the closet. We are having a veddy, veddy elegant ART SHOW on November 15th. We are inviting all Ventura, straight and gay, for a major fun' raiser. High tea will be served, and the best a.c. works go to the highest bidder. Come and enjoy and buy Christmas gifts that will give lasting joy. (and fill MCC Ventura's stocking!)

Something Beautiful

*There is therefore now no condemnation
to them that are in Christ Jesus. . . . — Romans 8:1*

SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL
William J. Gaither

Gloria Gaither

Some - thing beau - ti - ful, some - thing good;

All my con - fu - sion God un - der - stood,

All I had to of - fer was bro - ken - ness and

strife, But God made some - thing beau - ti - ful of my life.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON

131 Cambridge Avenue Boston, Massachusetts 02114
(617) 523-7664 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor
Fourth Sunday in Pentecost June 28, 1981
Announcements Organ Meditation

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: O be joyful in our God, all ye lands.
P: Serve God with gladness, come before
God's presence with a song.

L: Be sure that God is; it is God that hath made us and
not we ourselves.
P: We are God's people; the sheep of God's pasture.
L: Enter into these gates with thanksgiving and into these
courts with praise.
P: Be thankful to God and speak well of God's goodness.
L: For God is gracious, with everlasting mercy, and truth
that endures from generation to generation.
P: Be thankful unto God, and bless God's holy name.

OPENING HYMN: FROM ALL THAT DWELL #14

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Exodus 19:2-6
Romans 5:6-11
Matthew 9:35 - 10:8

SERMON: The Law and the Awe Rev. Ragona

HYMN: OUR GOD IS LIKE AN EAGLE Printed
Tune #248

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE: Hear Our Prayers, O God

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

DOXOLOGY: Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts.
Praise One God, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN: I Am Thine, O Lord

#159

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, we are tangled up in the
usual and ancient knots; the strings and snarls of the
world. We are anxious over many things that do not matter.
We love the fats and honeys and cushions for both body and
mind. We are wooed, and often won, by the comfortable lie.
We gain the whole world and lose our souls. We are often
troubled, terrored, and torn. Come, O gracious One, cut
the sagging web, untie the knots, make us taut that we may
shake free from the softness and walk the land in power,
for thou are the beginning, the journey and the repose.
By your mercies the fallen never finally fall, nor are the
lost truly lost, nor do the dead die. All is well in thee,
and shall be forever, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
who taught us to pray saying, "Our..."

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

L: God be with you.
P: And also with you.
L: Lift up your hearts.
P: We lift them up unto God.
L: Let us give thanks and praise.
P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the
highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.
Hosanna in the highest.

MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SUNG THANKSGIVING

Now our God is with us, let us make thanksgiving,
For the joy within us living. In this holy temple,
At this holy table, hope and life God will enable.
Now we leave and believe that God will restore us
For the work before us. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS

Printed

BENEDICTION

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF VENTURA
P.O. BOX A-0 VENTURA, CALIFORNIA, 93002
(805)985-2594 REV. MARGE RAGONA, PASTOR

MEETS AT 4949 FOOTHILL ROAD

Sixth Sunday in Epiphany February 22, 1981
SIGNSPARATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: You, Lord, are faithful in
all your words, and gracious in all your deeds.

P: You raise up all who are falling, and those
who are bowed down.

L: The eyes of all look to you, and you give them
food in due season.

P: You open your hand and satisfy the desire of
every living thing.

L: You are just in all your ways, and kind in
all your doings.

P: You are near to all who call upon you, to all
who call upon you in truth.

L: You fulfill the desire of all who fear you, you
hear their cry and save them.

P: You preserve all who love you, but you destroy
the wicked.

L: My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord.

P: Let all flesh bless God's holy name forever
and ever.

OPENING HYMN: We're Marching to Zion #29

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE - LEVITICUS 19:1,2, 17-18
I CORINTHIANS 3:16-23
MATTHEW 5:38-48

SERMON: What PRICE Perfection Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Higher Ground #38 SA

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We give thee but thine own, what e'er the gift
may be.

All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O God,
from thee.

COMMUNION HYMN: Here, O My Lord #48 SA

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, we often live
without you by our own choosing. We do not
want you in our affairs seriously. We try to
reduce you to our size, and often lose you.
We feel shallow, empty and defeated sometimes.
We long for depth; we ache for fullness; we
need satisfaction. Out of our faith, we ask
you to move in us, to trouble us, find us, for-
give us, and restore us. Let your word be in
us hope and peace, lest we turn our backs on
the mystery which lets us walk with you and
run without weariness, and enjoy our lives with
you. In the name of Jesus, who taught us to
pray, saying "Our..."

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up unto the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to God.

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power
and might: Heaven and earth are full of your
glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is
the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

CLOSING HYMN: I Have Decided to Follow Jesus
#51 SA

BENEDICTION AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

* * * * *

Thanks to all who helped to make the dance a
success last night. Bless you all.

Deacons' Meeting - Tuesday at the Pastor's home.
New Member's Class - Wednesday, 8:00 "

PLEASE DO NOT COME TO THE CHURCH BEFORE 6:30
NEXT SUNDAY.

131 Cambridge Avenue Boston, Massachusetts 02114
 (617) 523-7664 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor
 Fourth Sunday in Pentecost June 28, 1981
 Announcements Organ Meditation

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: O be joyful in our God, all ye lands.
 P: Serve God with gladness, come before
 God's presence with a song.

L: Be sure that God is; it is God that hath made us and
 not we ourselves.
 P: We are God's people; the sheep of God's pasture.
 L: Enter into these gates with thanksgiving and into these
 courts with praise.
 P: Be thankful to God and speak well of God's goodness.
 L: For God 'is gracious, with everlasting mercy, and truth
 that endures from generation to generation.
 P: Be thankful unto God, and bless God's holy name.

OPENING HYMN: FROM ALL THAT DWELL #14

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Exodus 19:2-6
 Romans 5:6-11
 Matthew 9:35 - 10:8

SERMON: The Law and the Awe Rev. Ragona

HYMN: OUR GOD IS LIKE AN EAGLE Printed
 Tune #248

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE: Hear Our Prayers, O God

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

PROXOLOGY: Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
 Praise God all creatures here below.
 Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts.
 Praise One God, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, we are tangled up in the
 usual and ancient knots; the strings and snarls of the
 world. We are anxious over many things that do not matter.
 We love the fats and honeys and cushions for both body and
 mind. We are wooed, and often won, by the comfortable lie.
 We gain the whole world and lose our souls. We are often
 troubled, terrored, and torn. Come, O gracious One, cut
 the sagging web, untie the knots, make us taut that we may
 shake free from the softness and walk the land in power,
 for thou are the beginning, the journey and the repose.
 By your mercies the fallen never finally fall, nor are the
 lost truly lost, nor do the dead die. All is well in thee,
 and shall be forever, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
 who taught us to pray saying, "Our..."

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

L: God be with you.
 P: And also with you.
 L: Lift up your hearts.
 P: We lift them up unto God.
 L: Let us give thanks and praise.
 P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the
 highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.
 Hosanna in the highest.

MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died.
 Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SUNG THANKSGIVING

Now our God is with us, let us make thanksgiving,
 For the joy within us living. In this holy temple,
 At this holy table, hope and life God will enable.
 Now we leave and believe that God will restore us
 For the work before us. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS

Printed

BENEDICTION

131 Cambridge Avenue Boston, Massachusetts 02114
 (617) 523-7664 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor
 Fourth Sunday in Pentecost June 28, 1981
 Announcements Organ Meditation

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: O be joyful in our God, all ye lands.

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P: Be thankful to God and speak well of God's goodness.

L: For God is gracious, with everlasting mercy, and truth
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READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Exodus 19:2-6
 Romans 5:6-11
 Matthew 9:35 - 10:8

SERMON: The Law and the Awe Rev. Ragona

HYMN: OUR GOD IS LIKE AN EAGLE Printed
 Tune #248

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RESPONSE: Hear Our Prayers, O God

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WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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 for thou are the beginning, the journey and the repose.
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P: We lift them up unto God.

L: Let us give thanks and praise.

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SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the
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 At this holy table, hope and life God will enable.
 Now we leave and believe that God will restore us
 For the work before us. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS

Printed

BENEDICTION

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF VENTURA
P.O. BOX A-0 VENTURA, CALIFORNIA 93002
(805) 985-2594 REV. MARGE RAGONA, PASTOR
4TH SUNDAY IN EPIPHANY FEBRUARY 8, 1980
SINGSPIRATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: O God, you who are my God, I look for you, my soul thirsts for you.
P: I faint searching for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
L: But I have looked upon you in your sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.
P: Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.
L: I will bless you as long as I live, I will lift up my hands and call upon your name.
P: My soul fattens as it feasts upon you, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips.
L: I think about you when I lie in bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; for you have been my help.
P: To you, O God, belongs my steadfast love, for you do reward me according to what I deserve.

OPENING HYMN: How Great Thou Art PRINTED

Welcome and Invocation

Reading from the Scripture: Zephaniah 2:3, 3:11-13
I Corinthians 1: 26-31
Matthew 5:1-12

A Modern Beatitude
by Rev. Nancy Wilson

SERMON: Promises, Promises, Promises REV. RAGONA

HYMN: Standing on the Promises #218

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: We believe in God -- Creator, Redeemer and Life Giver -- who summons the Church to mission in the world:

--To witness by word and deed to God's revelation in Christ and the acts of love by which God reconciles us.

--To evoke in us the personal response of repen-

tence and faith through which we can find newness of life in loving relationships with God and with our brothers and sisters everywhere.

--To bring us together in a Christian community of worship and love, and to send us forth into the world as servants in the struggle for meaning and justice.

--To move us to live in awareness of the life-giving power of God's presence, in acknowledgment of God's rule over history and in the confident expectation of the final completion of God's purpose. Amen.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

HYMN: Blest Be the Tie (V.1 only) 352

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be,

All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O God, from thee. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN: O Love That Will Not Let Me Go 466

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Hear our confession, gracious Lord, and in your mercy, pardon and revive us. We are too comfortable, God, neither hot nor cold to your love; neither affirming nor denying thee; having purposes but not your purpose; working our works but not your work; acting on truths but not your truth. We think we have gotten somewhere but are still nowhere. We live gracefully, but without your grace. God, defend us from our own goodness, our successes and our ease. Root us in your dense and holy depths that we may have life and life more abundantly. In the name of Jesus who taught us to pray, saying "Our..."

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

L: The Lord be with you.
P: And also with you.
L: Lift up your hearts.
P: We lift them up to the Lord.
L: Let us give thanks to God.
P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

CLOSING HYMN: It Is Well With My Soul

299

BENEDICTION/PASSING OF THE PEACE

* * * * *
TUESDAY, NOON: Deacon candidates meet at the pastor's home.
WEDNESDAY, 8:00 p.m.: New Member's Class, at the pastor's home.

DANCE, DANCE, DANCE -- BAILE, BAILE, BAILE. Remember the dance on the 21st. MARDI GRAS ball! Tell your friends, bring your friends! Costume, by all means

Newsletter is ready and being mailed Monday! Watch for it. It has a list of the new rap titles and dates. Raps begin in March.

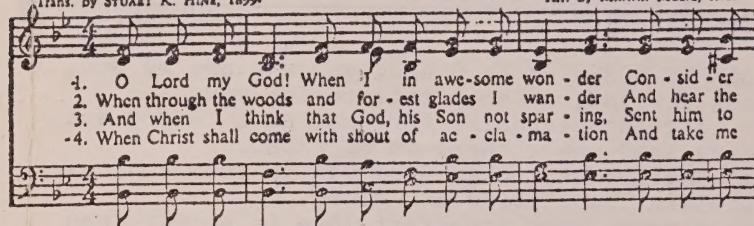
Chan Ward has made the church a gift of a Selectric typewriter. This permits the pastor and the newsletter staff to type bulletins and such at home. Thank you, Chan, for making life easier.

Irene's mother is still in the hospital, but is doing very well. She's at the Skilled Nursing Facility at St. John's. Rosemary Fesler enters St. John's Monday for tests. Keep her in your prayers, please.

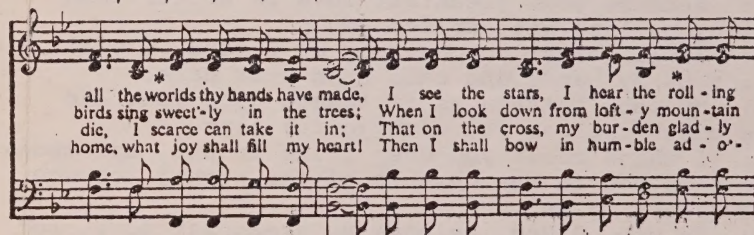
How Great Thou Art

O STORE GUD Irregular with Refrain
Swedish Folk Melody
Arr. by MANNA MUSIC, INC.

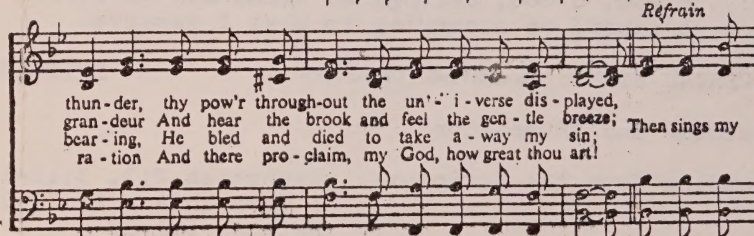
CARL BOBERG, 1859-1940
Trans. by STUART K. HINE, 1899-



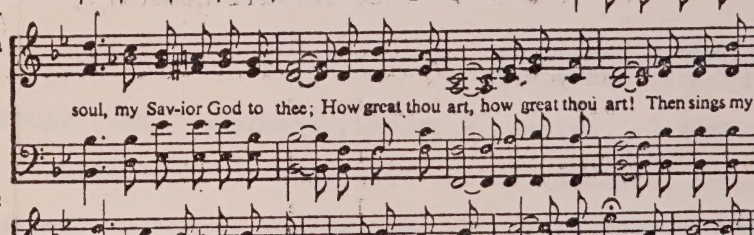
1. O Lord my God! When I in awe-some won - der Con - sid - er
2. When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der And hear the
3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, Sent him to
- 4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me



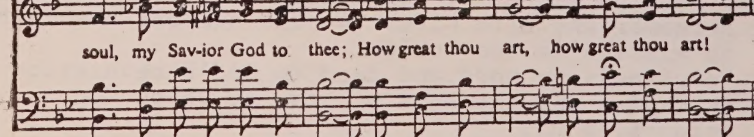
all the worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the roll - ing
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; When I look down from loft - y moun - tain
die, I scarce can take it in; That on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



Refrain
thun - der, thy pow'r through-out the un - i - verse dis - played,
gran - deur And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze; Then sings my
bear - ing, He bled and died to take a - way my sin;
ra - tion And there pro - claim, my God, how great thou art!



soul, my Sav - ior God to thee; How great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my



soul, my Sav - ior God to thee; How great thou art, how great thou art!

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METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
131 Cambridge Street Boston, MA. 02114
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (617) 523-7664
4th Sunday After Easter May 1, 1983

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Sing joyfully unto God, all
you lands; serve God
with gladness.

P: Come before God with joyful song, knowing
that God is good.

L: God has made us, we belong to God. We
are God's people, the flock that is
tended.

P: Enter these gates with thanksgiving;
these courts with praise.

L: Give thanks to God, bless God's name.

P: For God is good, with kindness enduring
forever and faithfulness to all generations.

OPENING HYMN:

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES: Acts 13:41-48
Rev. 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

SERMON: When It Looks Easy, Remember
the "Tribulation" Rev. Ragona

HYMN:

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE: Spirit of the Living God
Fall fresh on me

PASSING OF THE PEACE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

COMMUNION HYMN:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Our God in heaven holy, is your name; your dominion
come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us
our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from
evil. For yours is the dominion, the reign and the
glory, now and forever. Amen.

SUNG THANKSGIVING

Now our God is with us, let us make thanksgiving
For the joy within us living.

In this holy temple, at this holy table,
Hope and life God will enable.

Now we leave and believe that God will restore us
For the work before us.

CLOSING HYMN:

BENEDICTION

* * * * *

If you have been calling the Pastor at the hospital
(work) number, please do not do so any longer. Rev.
Ragona has had to leave the Somerville Hospital for
full-time employment, and is not at the number you
have as her work number. PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE
WORK NUMBER. As soon as there is another number
where she can be reached in emergencies you will
know it. Meanwhile, the recording machine should
be working by Wednesday, at the latest.

SPAGHETTI SUPPER - SPAGHETTI SUPPER - SPAGHETTI SUPPER
This Friday evening, 6:30, will be our great spaghetti
supper. Menu will include spaghetti, salad, ice
cream and cookies. Donation is \$5.00, and there is
a cash bar. Y'all come and bring friends. Let's
make money for the church.

GENERAL CONFERENCE is coming in July. If you are
planning to attend and have been told that all the
dormitory rooms are taken, take heart! A nearby
hotel is also reserving rooms for conference. You
must make your own reservation, but we have infor-
mation. Ask the pastor. Reservations require one
night's deposit.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF VENTURA
P.O. BOX A-0 VENTURA, CALIFORNIA 93002
(805) 985-2594 REV. MARGE RAGONA, PASTOR

PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 12, 1981

SINGSPIRATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom

P: Like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.

L: Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be
strong, fear not! Behold, your God will come."

P: Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

L: Then shall the lame leap like a hart, and the
tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

P: For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert;

L: The burning sand shall become a pool, and the
thirsty ground springs of water.

P: And a highway shall be there, and it shall be
called the Holy Way.

L: And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and
come to Zion with singing;

P: They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow
and sighing shall flee away.

OPENING HYMN: All Hail the Power of Jesus 330

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

SCRIPTURE:

Isaiah 50:4-7
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 21:1-11

SERMON: GET IN FRONT AND MAKE IT LOOK
LIKE A PERADE *RAGONA

SERMON HYMN: LORD OF THE DANCE

2B
SA

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE: HEAR OUR PRAYERS

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

RESPONSE: We give thee but thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be.
All that we have is thine alone,
A trust, O God, for thee. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN: TRUST AND OBEY

306

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, who's dearly beloved
child was greeted by the crowd on Olivet with Halle-
lujahs, but who in that same week was mocked as he went
to the cross: Forbid that we should worship in words
alone. Help us to keep the road open into our hearts.
Let Christ find, not another crucifixion, but love and
loyalty in our lives. O Christ, who forever rides up
to the gates of human lives: open our hearts to your
love, your light, your spirit that we may receive thee
and never reject thee. Pardon us who often close the
gates of our lives against the opening of your spirit;
forgive our love of self which does not allow you to
lead us into a larger life. Save us from the hypocrisy
which sings Hosanna in the church and cries Crucify in
our private lives. Save us from the sham that praises
with lips ut betrays in deeds. Deliver us from the
treason that boasts loyalty in the upper room but makes
cowardly denial in our public lives. When the palms
have withered, the songs are dead, and the streets are
empty, may we find ourselves at the end of our day still
walking with thee. In the name of Jesus, who taught us
to pray, Our...

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks.

P: It is right to give God thanks
and praise.

MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in
the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest.

CLOSING HYMN: They'll Know We Are Christians

#56

SA

BENEDICTION/PASSING OF THE PEACE

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON

131 Cambridge Avenue Boston, Massachusetts 02114
 (617) 523-7664 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor
 Fourth Sunday in Pentecost June 28, 1981
 Announcements Organ Meditation

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: O be joyful in our God, all ye lands.
 P: Serve God with gladness, come before
 God's presence with a song.

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 Romans 5:6-11
 Matthew 9:35 - 10:8

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HYMN: OUR GOD IS LIKE AN EAGLE Printed
 Tune #248

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RESPONSE: Hear Our Prayers, O God

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

DOXOLOGY: Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
 Praise God all creatures here below.
 Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts.
 Praise One God, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN: I Am Thine, O' Lord

#159

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, we are tangled up in the
 usual and ancient knots; the strings and snarls of the
 world. We are anxious over many things that do not matter.
 We love the fats and honeys and cushions for both body and
 mind. We are wooed, and often won, by the comfortable lie.
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 troubled, terrored, and torn. Come, O gracious One, cut
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 for thou are the beginning, the journey and the repose.
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SUNG THANKSGIVING

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 For the joy within us living. In this holy temple,
 At this holy table, hope and life God will enable.
 Now we leave and believe that God will restore us
 For the work before us. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS

Printed

BENEDICTION

CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25, 1977

9 AM WJAR Radio(920)

Worship 10 AM

ORGAN PRELUDE "Fantasy and Adagio" JOSEPH RHEINBERGER
GREETINGS AND CONCERNS

CHORAL INTROIT

GREETING TO THE RADIO CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: THOSE WHO DWELT IN A LAND OF DEEP DARKNESS, ON THEM HAS LIGHT SHINED.

L: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder,

C: AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED "WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE."

L: Of the increase of his government and of peace, there will be no end, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and righteousness, from this time forth and for evermore.

C: IN HIM APPEARED LIFE AND THIS LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF ALL PEOPLE. THE LIGHT STILL SHINES IN DARKNESS, AND THE DARKNESS CAN NEVER PUT IT OUT! NEVER! GLORY TO THE NEWBORN KING!

*HYMN OF CELEBRATION NO. 386

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward all humanity.

C: WE REMEMBER, O LORD, THAT WE COME TODAY TO WORSHIP THE PRINCE OF PEACE, BUT OUR WORLD IS NOT AT PEACE.

L: He is anointed to preach good tidings to the poor, release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, and to set at liberty them that are bruised.

C: WE REMEMBER THAT THERE ARE STILL THE LONELY, THE NEGLECTED, AND THE FORGOTTEN ONES WHOM IT IS SO MUCH MORE PLEASANT TO IGNORE THAN TO SUPPORT.

L: Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

C: WE REMEMBER THE LONGING TO LEAVE THINGS AS THEY ARE, EVEN FILLED WITH PAIN AND DISCOURAGEMENT AS THEY MAY BE, FOR CHANGE DEMANDS SO MUCH MORE.

L: Now is the time; today is the acceptable year of the Lord.

C: WE REMEMBER HOW MUCH BETTER YESTERDAY SEEMED AND HOW MUCH MORE BEAUTIFUL ARE OUR HOPES FOR TOMORROW. TODAY IS SO SOON TO BE THE TRUTH.

L: Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.

C: FORGIVE US, OH GOD, FOR OUR WEARINESS OF HEART THROUGH GREAT CONFLICT AND EXERTION. SUFFER US NOT TO BECOME CREATURES AND NATIONS OF INCREASING SELFISHNESS OR NARROW, FOOLISH PRIDE: MARRED WITH HARDNESS OF HEART AND WEAKENED BY FEAR AND SUSPICION. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ANTHEM (Quartet)

JOHN RUTTER

"I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANTHEM (Choir)

ARR. WILLCOX/ENGLISH TRADITIONAL

"Masters in this Hall"

THE WORD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

*HYMN OF PREPARATION NO. 374

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

THE WRITTEN WORD Luke 2:1-16 (NT p. 53)

Matthew 2:1a-11 (NT p. 1)

THE SPOKEN WORD

DR. ZIEGLER

"SURPRISED BY JOY"

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

BACH

"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"

DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

L: We are here today as people who have received a great gift.

C: FOR UNTO US IS BORN THIS DAY IN THIS TIME AND PLACE A SAVIOR WHICH IS CHRIST THE LORD.

L: We are here today as people who have shared in
a great mystery.

C: FOR THIS CHILD, THIS CHRIST, IS WITH US AND
WITHIN US, TODAY AND EVERY DAY, NOW AND FOREVER
MORE. AMEN.

*HYMN OF DEDICATION NO. 388

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

ORGAN POSTLUDE *"Lobet den Herrn"*

KARG-ELERT

* People standing

NEXT SUNDAY

Holy Communion

Dr. Ziegler will preach:

"CHRISTMAS WAS FOR EVERYONE"

*May God's richest blessings be with you and your
family in the New Year.*

The Word
became
flesh.

John 1:14



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CLERK

TREASURER

ASST. TREASURER

BD. MEMBER

BD. MEMBER

DUTIES:

Attend Bd. Meetings
 Make Decisions
 Keep minutes of
 all meetings
 Distribute minutes
 to Board
 Pastor
 Congregation
 Receive and answer
 church correspon-
 dence
 Keep membership
 records
 Write for and send
 transfer letters
 Notify congregation
 of meetings in
 writing
 Get new members'
 history forms
 Keep church records
 filed properly
 Meet new members

Attend Bd. Meetings
 Make decisions
 Count offering
 Bank offering
 Keep financial
 records
 Make report of
 finances to
 Board & Pastor
 and Congregation
 Keep pastor in-
 formed of weekly
 offering and
 attendance
 Draw up annual
 budget
 Present budget to
 cong. meeting
 Chair, Budget
 Committee
 Report to UFMCC
 and NED
 Write checks
 ?Fund Raising?
 ?Petty Cash
 ?Deacon's Fund

Attend Bd. Meetings
 Make Decisions
 Keep members tithe
 records
 Sit on Budget Comm.
 Inform members of
 financial giving
 ? Fund Raising?

Attend Bd. Meetings
 Make Decisions
 Attend Bd.Meets
 Make Decisions

No other duties

Things that need to be done (by Board)

Congregational leadership role
 Outreach
 Liaison with host church (Now done by Ernie through
 work with D.I.C.)
 Liaison with Christian Education
 Liaison with lay delegate/UFMCC laity,NED laity
 Social action leadership, shared w. pastor
 Fellowshiping activities
 Purchase of supplies/forms/printing/etc.
 Oversight of church property (if any)
 Liaison with Worship Committee
 Liaison with Council on Ministries
 Liaison with Publicity-Publications (Newsletter,etc.)

GAY PRIDE CALENDAR

Tonight: Somewhere Else's Pride Party - \$2.00 to benefit Boston Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee.

Political Endorsements by Boston Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance, U Mass. Arlington and Stuart Streets, Rm. 222.

Wednesday - La Cage Aux Folles, benefit for AIDS Action Committee, (\$25.00, \$30, \$35 at Fenway Health Center) at the Colonial Theatre.

Wednesday - Mothers and Other Lovers, Cauldron Theatre, 8:00, Cambridge YWCA, 7 Temple St., \$5.00.

Wednesday - Kate Clinton, Feminist-Humorist, 7 and 9 p.m. First Ch. Congregational, Garden and Mason Sts, Cambridge. Tickets at New Words, Glad Day.

Thursday - AIDS Action Evening at Fanueil Hall, 7:30 p.m. (Free), Candlelight procession to commemorate those who have died of AIDS.

Friday - Our Art Auction, begins at 7:00 (for viewing) Auction at 8:00. Refreshments. \$2.00 at door.

Robin Tyler at Somewhere Else, 8:00 p.m. \$5.00.

Saturday: Interfaith Service, Arlington St. Church, 10:00 a.m.

13th Gay Pride Parade, Copley Square begins at noon. Pre-parade entertainment at 11:15, Coffee at Trinity Church, sponsored by MCC before the parade (11-1).

Book Party at Glad Day for David Scondras 4-7:00 p.m. \$10.00 at the door.

Gay Pride Ball at the Bradford Hotel \$12.00 includes buffet, 9:00 p.m. benefit for Boston Lesbian/Gay Pride.

Amythest Women's Dance \$4.00, 9-1 a.m. Boston YWCA, 140 Clarendon St. Drug and Alcohol free.

Sunday, Singing with Pride, Gay Men's Chorus, 3:00 p.m. (June 19th) Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., \$5 & 8.

Tuesday June 21. Loud & Proud, benefit for Am Tikva. M.L. King School, 120 Putnam Ave, Cambridge: \$5.00 in advance (Glad Day, New Words) \$6.00 at door.

41. ALL ARE ONE IN CHRIST

Yes, all are one in Christ,
Whose one baptism share;
Not Jew or Gentile, slave or free,
Not male or female be.

In Christ all barriers fall,
One people--all are we;
The children of bright promises,
Christ comes to make us free.

The gift of life we share,
The chains of slavery fall;
And women, men from every land
Give answer to Christ's call.

So stand in Christ and live
The life of faith and love;
Sing, "All are one in Christ who leads
To joy here and above."

WORDS: Martha Montague Wilson ©
TUNE: Festal Song ("Rise Up, O Men
of God")

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON

131 Cambridge Street Boston, MA. 02114
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (617) 523-7664
 3rd Sunday After Pentecost June 12, 1983

L: Magnify our God with me; let us exalt God's name together!

P: I SOUGHT GOD AND WAS ANSWERED, AND I WAS DELIVERED FROM MY FEARS.

L: Look to God and be radiant; never be ashamed.

P: I CRIED OUT TO GOD WHO HEARD ME AND SAVED ME FROM MY DESPAIR.

L: Taste and see that Our God is sweet; happy are you when you take refuge in God.

P: COME AND LEARN TO BE IN AWE OF OUR GOD.

L: Who is it that desires life; who covets many days, and seeks good?

P: Do not speak evil, do good; seek peace and pursue it.

L: God is near to the broken-hearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.

P: GOD REDEEMS OUR LIVES AND NONE WHO TAKE REFUGE IN GOD WILL BE CONDEMNED.

OPENING HYMN: "HOW GREAT THOU ART" No. 17
 (Please change vs. 2: his Son to Jesus, him to Christ,
He to Christ.)

Welcome and Prayer of Invocation

Reading from the Scripture: Galatians 2:11-21
 II Samuel 12:1-10, 13
 Luke 7: 31-35

SERMON: "If it's not worth getting there, why go?"
 Rev. Ragona

HYMN: "Just As I Am" No. 119

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE: Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me,
 Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me.
 Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
 Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS - WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

RESPONSE: We give thee but thine own
 Whate'er the gift may be,
 All that we have is thine alone,
 A trust, O God, from thee. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN: Breathe On Me, Breath of God No.133

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, for all within us that has wounded others, we ask pardon. For the malice in us and the jealousy; for the cold heart we ask forgiveness. Above all, we ask forgiveness for our part in the general misery of humanity: for our ears that will not hear and our eyes that will not see; for the times we have not been compassionate toward those who have had more than their share of the wounds and sorrows. Keep us in faith, lift our hearts to you, and send us forth in love where others cry out and hearts are broken, and souls demand such mercy as only you can give. Forgive us and make us instruments of your love and peace, in Jesus' name, who taught us to pray, saying..."Our God in heaven, holy is your name, your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil, for yours is the dominion, the power and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

SUNG THANKSGIVING

Now our God is with us let us make thanksgiving
 For the joy within us living.
 In this holy temple, at this holy table
 Hope and life God will enable.
 Now we leave and believe that God will restore us
 For the work before us. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "All Are One in Christ"

Printed

BENEDICTION

* * * * *
 This is Gay Pride Week in Boston, and there are many activities planned for your enjoyment, and to make a political statement in the city. Please attend those which you feel will most represent your point of view, and show others who feel as you do your support. We are everywhere!

ART AUCTION: This Friday evening, MCC is sponsoring an Art Auction. We will have invitations available for your addressing. Please take at least 10 and send them to your friends. Let's see if we can have a good time and also support the church.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON
131 Cambridge Street Boston, MA. 02114
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (617) 523-7664
2nd Sunday after Pentecost June 4, 1983

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Be not vexed over evildoers, nor
envious of those who do wrong.

P: For like grass they quickly wither, and like green herbs
they wilt.

L: Trust in God and do good, that you may dwell in the land
and enjoy security.

P: Take delight in God who will grant your heart's requests.

L: Commit to God your ways, trust in God who will act.

P: God will make justice dawn for you as a light;

L: Bright as noon will be your vindication.

P: Leave it to God and wait.

OPENING HYMN: The God of Prophets Praise Printed

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Reading from the Scripture: I Kings 8:41-43
Galatians 1:1-10
Luke 7:1-10

SERMON: The Good News as Verb Richard Creasy

SERMON HYMN: Take My Life & Let It Be No. 187
(Tune: Hendon)

Prayers of the People

Response: Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me;
Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me;
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me.

Passing of the Peace

Announcements-Worship with our Tithes and Offerings

Response: We give thee but thine own
Whate'er the gift may be
All that we have is thine alone
A trust, O God, from thee.

COMMUNION HYMN: Come Ye Disconsolate No. 103

Prayer of Confession: Eternal God, take from us the sin by
which we declare that we have no sin. Make us sorry for all
the ways we have wounded one another. Keep us penitent for
our neglect of the world's suffering: for the sick we have
not visited, for the hungry we have not fed, for the naked

we have not clothed, for the prisoners we have not set
free. Especially, deepen our sadness for not having loved
enough the holy, the chaste, and the innocent. Humble
us now in the absence of light that we may see your light
and that we may accept your forgiveness, in the name of
Jesus, who taught us to pray saying: "Our God in heaven,
holy is your name, your dominion come, your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily
bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who
sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver
us from evil. For yours is the power, the dominion, and
the glory, now and forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

SUNG THANKSGIVING: Now our God is with us
Let us make thanksgiving
For the joy within us living.

In this holy temple, at this holy table,
Hope and life God will enable.
Now we leave and believe that God will restore us
For the work before us. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: Our God Is Like An Eagle Printed

Benediction

* * * * *
Our Flea Market netted \$70.00 for the church, and thanks
to Martin Porter for doing the work.

Thanks also to Paul Medling for carrying last week's
service. Inadvertently, the bulletin did not get delivered
to the church, and Paul carried on with out it.

If you have not yet seen student clergy Richard Creasy in
Guys and Dolls, you have missed a real treat. He has one
more weekend, June 10th and 11th to perform this role.
The play is at the Strand in Dorchester. You'll love it!

General Conference is coming up quickly. We will be
having a congregational meeting to choose a delegate and
to instruct that delegate on June 19th 4-6. Please
attend.

MAJOR FUND RAISER: There will be an Art Auction here on
June 17th (Gay Pride evening), with some fine art to be
auctioned. Invitations should arrive this week. We would
like you to address these to your friends and we will
mail them for you. Invite all people you know to enjoy
the program. \$2.00 at the door. Cash bar, and a fun
evening.

Pastor

DUTIES

WORSHIP

Prepare Worship Format
Preach (2-3X mo.)
Consecrate communion
Oversee service
Choose ushers
servers
Set altar
Choose and xerox hymns
to meet inclusive lang.
requirements
Funerals/Memorial Serv.
(1 so far)
Holy Unions
Participate in worship
at District Conferences
UFMCC conferences
Xerox worship bulletin
Type worship bulletin
Meet with Worship Comm.
Input into schedule
Participate in Community
Worship Services: Gay
Pride Day, Thanks-
giving, Holocaust,
etc.
Upkeep of altar dress-
ings and ware

ADMINISTRATION

Chair Board
Outreach
Newsletter/Pastoral letter
Liaison with host pastors
Purchase of altar supplies/
other supplies
Church mail

UFMCC Duties

Member FFO
Member hymnology comm.
Attend Gen. Conf.

N.E.D. Duties

Attend Dist. Conf.
Plan and prepare
district conferences

GAY COMMUNITY LIAISON

Outreach to organizations
schools
Mayor's Liaison
Liaison with other relig.
organizations: Dignity
Integrity, Am Tikva, etc.
Liaison with Commu. Orgs.

FUND RAISING

Participation
Facilitation
Organization

WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

Attend meetings
Attend soc. activities
Attend classes

COUNSELING

Counseling Members
H.U. Counseling
Commu. counseling
Telephone and/or
crisis counseling
Deaconal counseling/
homeless, hungry

FELLOWSHIPING

Meals with members
Phone contact with
members
Social activities with
members and friends
of church
Social activities with
"prospects"
Social activities with
h.u. couples and their
friends (prospects?)
(counseling? humani-
tarianism? spread of
MCC to areas not served?)

TEACHING

New Member's Class
Supervise/teach
Deacons
Supervise/teach
Student Clergy
Christian education
Groups and
Supervision of
others' groups
Speaking Engagements
Schools
Churches
Soc. Agencies
Hospitals
Organizations
Worship Committee
(church year, liturgy,
themes, etc.)

Continuing Education

B.U.?
Project Place?
MCC Conferences

This to be done in 20 hours per week.

EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

1 This contract of employment is entered into on this ____ day of ____
2 in the Year of Christ 1981, by and between the Reverend Marjorie Ragona
3 (hereinafter referred to as Pastor) and the Vestry (Board of Directors)
4 of Metropolitan Community Church of Boston, Incorporated (hereinafter
5 referred to as Vestry) on behalf of the congregation of voting members of
6 Metropolitan Community Church of Boston (hereinafter referred to as
7 congregation.

8 The Vestry, acting pursuant to the electoral vote of the congregation
9 duly assembled on April 26, 1981, hereby employs the Reverend Marjorie
10 Ragona as Pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of Boston.

DUTIES

11 The Pastor, in return for periodic compensation as will from time
12 to time be specified by vote of the Vestry and Congregation, will perform
13 the duties of Pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of Boston, as
14 specified in Article V, Section D, Subsection 1 of the By-Laws of the
15 Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, to wit:

D. LOCAL CHURCH BODIES:

1. PASTOR: The pastor is that person elected by a local church congregation to perform the duties of teacher, preacher, spiritual leader and counselor. The person filling this position must be a licensed or ordained minister in the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. The pastor of the church body shall have the authority for ordering all religious worship services of the church. The pastor is also to serve as moderator of the local Board of Directors. He/She may participate as an ex-officio member in the activities of any or all of the boards, committees and organizations within the local church. The pastor shall

act as moderator of congregational business meetings. Associate or assistant pastors, other ministerial personnel, uncompensated and compensated personnel shall be appointed by the pastor subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. The pastor shall act as personnel director of the local church staff, shall have the authority to delegate such responsibilities and duties as to him/her seem wise, and shall, with the approval of the Board of Directors, determine compensation, vacation periods and titles of office of the staff.

Pastors may be removed from office only for good and sufficient reasons by a majority vote of the congregation at any special meeting called for that purpose by a three-fourths (¾) vote of the full Board of Directors, or by petition to the Clerk or other officer of the Board of Directors by at least 25% of the members in good standing of the congregation. The pastor must be given written notice of the charges within two (2) weeks. At that time the Pastor goes on inactive status but remains fully compensated until final action by the congregation. The pastor has the right to appear on his/her behalf before a congregational meeting. The action of the congregation is final. If a special meeting is called to remove a pastor the District Coordinator and the Board of Elders must be given notice that such action is being taken. The District Coordinator, in conjunction with the Board of Elders, must send a representative to attend said meeting as an impartial observer. If the pastor is removed the Board of Directors will meet immediately after the meeting with the representative of the District Coordinator and Board of Elders to elect a worship coordinator who will serve until the pulpit is filled. The Board of Directors will confer with the District Coordinator and the Board of Elders of the Fellowship as to available candidates for the office of pastor.

1 and the duties of an ordained minister as specified in Article IV,
2 Section A, Subsection 2(c), to wit:

c. DUTIES: The ordained minister shall be required to shepherd his/her flock, to preach the Gospel as stated in the doctrine of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, as set forth in the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of the same, to administer the sacraments and to perform the rites of the Church, or to undertake other duly authorized ministries.

3 Furthermore, nothing in these provisions shall prevent the dele-
4 gation of the following duties of Pastor to other persons designated
5 by the Pastor, provided that the prior advice and consent of the Vestry
6 thereto is received:

7 A) The Pastor may delegate the ordering of specific worship
8 services to other persons (such as the possibility of one worship
9 service per month planned and conducted entirely by lay people).
10 However, the Pastor shall retain the overall authority over ordering
11 worship, and shall be responsible for seeing that the regularly
12 scheduled worship services are carried out.

13 B) The Pastor may designate some other individual, including a
14 lay person, to serve as moderator of the Vestry and congregational
15 business meetings. Such designation must be made in writing and
16 approved by either the Vestry or Congregation.

ADDITIONAL DUTIES

17 A) The Pastor shall serve as principal spokesperson of MCC Boston,
18 and shall be available from time to time to grant interviews to and
19 answer questions from various news media. In the role of principal
20 spokesperson, the Pastor shall represent MCC Boston (in person or by
21 designee) at ecumenical and interfaith events, at events of note within
22 the gay and lesbian community to which MCC Boston is invited to send
23 a representative, and other such occasions as may arise.

24 B) The Pastor shall ensure that a planned, coordinated ministry
25 is maintained of outreach to the non-churched and non-Christian.

26 C) The Pastor shall work an official week of 30 (thirty) hours
27 not including meal breaks. This number of hours may be raised or
28 lowered during the period of this contract only by majority vote of
29 the Vestry or Congregation. On this basis the Pastor shall be re-
30 garded as a full-time employee. For at least six (6) hours of every
31 week the Pastor must announce, before the week begins, a schedule of
32 availability for office hours and counseling. This shall be a period
33 of six (6) hours during the week, not necessarily consecutive, when
34 the Pastor can be reached personally by telephone, and also may con-
35 duct counseling if mutually agreeable between the Pastor and counselee(s).

36 D) Over and above the specified thirty (30) hour week (or other
37 such period of hours as stated according to the herein specified pro-
38 cedure) the Pastor may hold other income-earning positions, as long as

1 they do not conflict with the duties and obligations of Pastor. Any
 2 such additional job must be proposed to the Vestry in advance of the
 3 start of such outside employment in order that the Vestry may determine
 4 by majority vote that the outside job does not prevent the Pastor from
 5 effectively carrying out the duties specified herein.

6 E) The Pastor may request transfer to less than full-time status,
 7 which must be approved by the Vestry, and by the next regularly
 8 scheduled Congregational Meeting if the period of part-time status
 9 carries that long. The Vestry and Congregation reserve the right not
 10 to grant part-time status if they feel such reduced Pastoral work would
 11 be seriously detrimental to the church. Part-time compensation would
 12 be determined on an hourly pro rata basis by the Vestry, working from
 13 the base full-time pay rate.

COMPENSATION

14 MCC Boston shall pay the Pastor \$600.00 per month. This amount shall
 15 be divided into housing allowance and salary. A portion of the housing
 16 allowance of \$390.00 shall be issued by check on or before the first
 17 Sunday of every month. The remainder of the month's compensation shall
 18 be issued in four (4) or five (5) checks of equal amounts, one check on
 19 each of the Sundays of the month.

20 In addition, the church may provide the Pastor with a medical/health
 21 insurance plan as voted by the Vestry. Depending upon the availability
 22 of funds, the church may provide the Pastor with family medical insurance,
 23 (to include children and/or lover); a life insurance policy; and a
 24 pension/retirement fund contribution.

25 In order to receive compensation, the Pastor shall file with the
 26 Clerk of MCC Boston a form on a monthly basis specifying Pastoral
 27 duties performed pursuant to the duties outlined in this contract.

28 The church shall grant the Pastor four (4) weeks (twenty - 20 -
 29 working days) of paid vacation including four (4) Sundays in every
 30 twelve (12) month period following the date of signing this contract.
 31 Vacation days must be requested at the regular monthly Vestry meeting
 32 preceding the requested vacation dates, and submitted on a form design-
 33 nated by the Vestry. Such request form shall include the Pastor's
 34 written delegation as to who will perform the duties of the office of
 35 Pastor while the Pastor is on vacation. The Vestry, in its discretion,
 36 may refuse to grant more than ten (10) days of consecutive vacation time.
 37 All vacation must be taken within the calendar year it is provided, and
 38 none will accrue into a following year.

39 The Pastor may take paid sick days off from work; one (1) day is
 40 defined as equal to six (6) hours. Sick days shall accrue at the rate
 41 of one (1) day for every month of twenty (20) workdays worked. Sick days
 42 may accrue to a total maximum of sixty (60). At the discretion of the
 43 Vestry, a medical doctor's letter detailing nature and extent of illness
 44 may be required before payment of sick day compensation. Sick days shall
 45 be listed on the monthly report sheet.

46 The Pastor shall be entitled to 13 (thirteen) of the following
 47 possible paid holidays, with choices of holiday to be submitted to the

1 Vestry in advance.

2 Choices include:

- 3 New Year's Day
- 4 Martin Luther King Day
- 5 Washington's Birthday
- 6 Patriot's Day
- 7 Evacuation / Saint Patrick's Day
- 8 One day of Holy Week or Easter Week (excluding worship service)
- 9 Memorial Day
- 10 Bunker Hill Day
- 11 Independence Day
- 12 Labor Day
- 13 Columbus Day
- 14 Veterans' Day
- 15 Thanksgiving (excluding worship service)
- 16 Christmas (excluding worship service)
- 17 Pastor's birthday

18 The Pastor is authorized to attend all General Conferences of UFMCC,
 19 District Conferences of the Northeast District of UFMCC, and UFMCC
 20 Ministers' Conferences on church time. The church shall pay for the
 21 travel and housing expenses of sending the Pastor to such conferences.
 22 The Vestry may authorize travel on church time, and payment for, other
 23 official UFMCC meetings that may arise, but is not bound to do so.

24 The Vestry, by majority vote, may provide the Pastor with tuition
 25 assistance for courses that would assist the Pastor in providing better
 26 ministerial service, and with other registration payments or income
 27 bonuses as in their discretion may be suitable.

28 In a memorandum of agreement to be attached to this contract, the
 29 Treasurer and Vestry shall list the average monthly income for the year
 30 prior to the employment of Pastor Marjorie Ragona. During the course of
 31 this contract, the following escalator of salary clause shall be in
 32 effect: The first \$100 monthly increase shall have no bearing upon salary.
 33 Starting with the second \$100 of monthly increase, the Pastor shall be
 34 eligible to receive 60% of each additional monthly \$100 increase in income.
 35 Negotiation and authorization of such increase in compensation shall occur
 36 every three (3) months during the first year of this contract, and every
 37 six (6) months thereafter for the duration of the Pastor's employment.
 38 Increase in compensation must be voted by a majority of the Vestry, based
 39 on their judgment as to the financial condition of the church.

TERM OF OFFICE

40 This contract of employment shall be effective from the above date
 41 of signing through the Fall, 1982 Congregational Meeting of MCC Boston,
 42 but in no case beyond December 1, 1982. At the Fall, 1982 Congregational
 43 Meeting, the Vestry shall recommend by majority vote whether or not to
 44 extend the contract for a two (2) year period, and the Congregation shall
 45 vote on the extension. Thereafter, every two (2) years votes shall be
 46 taken on renewal of the contract.

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Nothing in this contract shall be construed as contravening Article V, Section D (1) lines 9-28 of UFMCC By-Laws relating to the removal of a Pastor for good and sufficient reason, and this UFMCC By-law shall remain in effect at MCC Boston for the duration of this contract.

The Pastor may resign at any time by giving forty (40) days of working days advance notice in writing to a regularly scheduled Vestry meeting. If the Pastor resigns without giving such required term of notice, the Vestry may add compensation when the Pastor ceases working.

VALID ONLY WHEN SIGNED BY PASTOR & MAJORITY OF VESTRY ON PAGE 5

CONTRACT SIGNATURES

CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT BY AND BETWEEN The Reverend Marjorie Ragona, PASTOR, and the VESTRY OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON, INC.

The undersigned parties hereby agree to adhere to the terms of this contract:

The Reverend Marjorie Ragona, Pastor DATE

James Michael Hayes, Clerk, MCC Boston DATE

Members of the Vestry of MCC Boston:

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To the Board:

May I strongly protest the actions of Board Member Sheila Rosecrans who was called and asked if she was going to be able to attend the U.E.D. Conference and not only assured the Bd. that she would attend, but forcefully denigrated the performance of the previous delegate who had attended every conference and failed to make a public report only on the last conference at which only minimal district business was transacted.

Ms. Rosecrans' actions prohibited the pastor leaving Albany to return to Boston for a major community event at which ~~she~~ was scheduled to speak, and which plans had been made many weeks in advance. This prohibition was occasioned by the press of District business which included votes concerning the mission status of Worcester, ^{and the Fellowship} New Haven, the GSS proposed changes, and prolonging the terms of District Officers until October (should the GSS proposal be adopted at General Conference.) I did not feel then, and feel now, that I was right in doing so, that I could leave Albany with no representative from Boston present, either clergy or lay.

The vehemence of Ms. Rosecrans' objection to the prior delegate attending conference as our representative + then not attending herself is reprehensible, + I hereby call for the resignation of Ms. Rosecrans as our delegate to General Conference + the election

of a lay delegate at the June meeting which will be called to brief the delegate prior to General Conference.

A second item concerns me: One of the major ways money was raised to pay the tithes owed to F. + D. was the concern about lay voting being lost by our tithe not being paid. In the push to pay tithes our weekly offerings were down and the pastor was not paid her full pay for 3 months. It is unconscionable that items we pay for not be utilized, especially when paying them means hardship for others.

The delegate is also a board member, & the Board must be cognizant of the importance of lay participation at every level. It is true that Ms. Rosserans would have had to pay her own way, however, 2 registrations had been paid (one church, one personal - because the church registration had not been received) and she would have been registered & housed & fed. Since she drives, her only outlay would have been about \$20⁰⁰ for gasoline.

Much, small, old, man living & poor.
Mystery of God's love calling us to
1, F, E,

? Vulnerability - Society that does not accept.
few people? Many? Authentic, or
selective.

Don't know! Because personal question.
Attempt to exposit. Reason so hesitant
fear being hurt. A lot of us are
defensive out of fear, pervades life.
Repetition, fear of hurt. After intimacy -
all homeness - slowly let fears go.
I cannot make decision to let go fear.
First love, sense of belonging, inner
knowledge that in a way cannot lose.
Others do not have power - given them
by your fear.

Concentration camp - woman's diary.
description of person surrounded by
faces of evil yet not afraid. In
midst of death, agony, torture -
experiences sense that those powers
did not have - over her. Joy -
place that set her free. Maybe to
Valgru can experience belonging,
identify fears, diminish power &
let them go.

Let fear go, forgive person, see what
happens. Small steps out of fear,
I'm not falling apart.

Bay is not mar - Cliff - sweated & broke up.
jumps - full in embrace - fear
never came back.

work at community. Not warm feeling.
Keep trying. Sign of trust & love. Don't
give a chance to explain selves -

7. Resp. to others to foster intimacy in
others, I, F, T in others. Esp. others
who don't see need.

1. Believe that when we are at home -
we are united, spiritual hospitality.
One who is hosted, creates feeling
for others - spiritual space. Varner,
Theresa, others, Possessive, clinging -
violent in needs. Trust value of
my being at home -

2. One-at-home - able to see in others &
call gifts forward. Call forth gifts &
see that they have. Pepl has low
self-esteem, no one apprec. them.
Ppl has lost identity. Worthlessness
characterizes. Recognize gifts for
you. Receive gifts of others, recognize
gifts of others. Let students give to
you. Eyes of receiver given something -
3. How? individuals. Communities
to be receiving places. Does church
hear needs of ppl - not moral agent -
have something to give - needs gifts
of everyone & reveal gifts. Alienate
ppl. How commu. looking down
on them. Give us something - we
need to let God give us.

Discipline? I-C- Healing as a discipline?

Discipleship open to God. Human effort to find place where something can happen to us. Spiritual - concentrated effort to open to God, space for something to happen. Fear of empty space. Open to something happen. God can touch me. Creating space - poverty of community. Healing - create space where healing - new life - can enter. Manipulations → to there. After healing in sp. sense - is to create openness where new things can happen.

Willingness to trust this moment. Not prepare for response. Friend: person to stay with even when not know what to do.

? Fullness - Receptive - Tends to invite people - scarcity of time, love, no more to give.

Healing + new life + minist is often taking place in ways I do not control. Projd - oriented. How to keep together. How do all? Fragmented, exhausted, burn out - Issue not what - but how to be. Authentic way of being will have effect. Single-mindedness, trusting that I have to believe God will not give burden greater than I can bear - both at faithfulness - not God's burden -

last tough & vocation. Not asked to burn
apt. Change from preparing self
for many things to life of preparedness.
Life - one - lived out in many ways -

Rid of tyranny of time. "No" in a way that
is weakling - Not speak to each indiv.

Ministry of absence. "Send Spirit." Make that
part of ministry. Some people good in
short encounters. Goodness of leaving.

? Don't want to go home - don't want
to be intimate? "

Lover is demanding - "Do you love
me." Leadership - being led to
places you'd rather not go. In
love & God, in trouble. Abraham -
Hard places, 1st love, allowed them
to go. What does out of love &
Not out of need to prove self -
Hard places.

? Fear of going home? Not as bad as
app.

Image -  designed could be hospital -
ramps, one floor - etc -
Hoped that death can be
turned into life.



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH of BOSTON

131 CAMBRIDGE STREET
REV. MARGE RAGONA, PASTOR

BOSTON, MA 02114
(617) 523-7664

September 25, 1983

Dear Marge,

The Vestry of MCC Boston would like to take this opportunity to wish you the very best as you move onward to your new ministry in Pensacola. These past two years have been enlightening and challenging for us all, and your absence will be deeply felt.

We feel particularly blessed that through much hard work and the Grace of God we have been able to ease this transition for you by completely fulfilling MCC Boston's contractual financial obligation to you.

We are sure that interesting times await you, and hope that you will often remember us, as we will you, in prayer.

Sincerely,

James Michael Harges

Ernest F. Lessa

John Doyle

Rev. Martin Porter

CC: Carol Dees, CDC, NED
Rev. Nancy Wilson, Liaison Elder, NED
Rev. Don Eastman, Liaison Elder, NED
Rev. Freda Smith, Liaison Elder, SED

MINISTERS:

The Rev. F. Willard Moffat
The Rev. Victoria Hart Gaskell
The Rev. Robert W. Fishel

ORGANISTS:

Yuko Hayashi, Director of Music
Michael Kraft, Asst. Organist

DROP-IN CENTER DIRECTOR: The Rev. E. Louise Forrest

CHURCH SECRETARY: Robin E. Holman

SEXTON: David Gaylord

OPPORTUNITIES AT OLD WEST

TODAY 11:00 a.m. Sunday Service
12:00 p.m. Coffee Hour
7:00 p.m. MCC Worship

MONDAY 6:00 p.m. Old West Drop-In Center
7:30 p.m. Pentecost Worship

TUESDAY 8:00 p.m. Business and Professional
Women meet for movie and
discussion

THURSDAY - SATURDAY 1983 Southern New England Conference, Bryant College, Smithfield, Rhode Island.

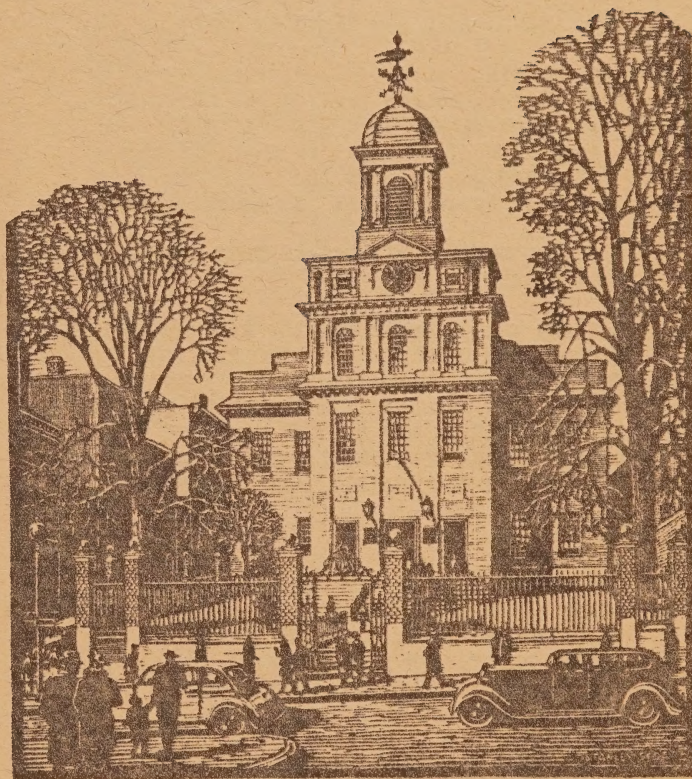
6:00 p.m. Saturday Night Live!

NEXT SUNDAY is CHILDREN'S DAY.

HYMN SINGING IS ONE OF UNITED METHODISM'S GREATEST TREASURES. OUR INCREASING AWARENESS OF THE POWER OF LANGUAGE UPON OUR LIVES HAS LED TO SERIOUS EFFORTS TO MAKE THE WORDS OF FAITH APPROPRIATELY INCLUSIVE. IN THIS ERA OF TRANSITION, AS WE AWAIT NEW RENDERINGS OF OUR HYMNS, ALL ARE INVITED TO EDIT HYMNS AND PRAYERS USED IN OUR SERVICES AS CONSCIENCE DICTATES. LET US MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE.

OLD WEST CHURCH

UNITED METHODIST



131 CAMBRIDGE STREET, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02114

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 5, 1983

Eleven O'Clock

PREPARATION

PRELUDE *Partita - O God, Thou Faithful God* J.S. Bach

*PROCESSIONAL *I Sing the Almighty Power* No. 37

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing praises to the Lord, O you the saints,
AND GIVE THANKS TO GOD'S HOLY NAME.

O Lord my God, we cried to thee for help,
AND THOU HAST HEALED US.

Thou hast turned for us our mourning into
dancing,

THAT OUR SOULS MAY PRAISE THEE AND NOT
BE SILENT.

*COLLECT FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

O GOD, FROM WHOM ALL GOOD PROCEEDS: WE ASK
THAT BY YOUR INSPIRATION WE MAY THINK THOSE
THINGS THAT ARE RIGHT, AND THAT BY YOUR MERCY
AND GUIDANCE WE MAY DO THEM; THROUGH JESUS
CHRIST OUR SAVIOR, WHO LIVES AND REIGNS WITH
YOU AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, ONE GOD, FOREVER
AND EVER. AMEN

*RESPONSE

GOD OF LOVE AND GOD OF POWER,
GRANT US IN THIS BURNING HOUR
GRACE TO ASK THESE GIFTS OF THEE,
DARING HEARTS AND SPIRITS FREE.
GOD OF LOVE AND GOD OF POWER,
THOU HAST CALLED US FOR THIS HOUR.

PRAISE AND PROCLAMATION

OLD TESTAMENT

I Kings 17:17-24

(The people are seated)

Holy and gracious God, *(the celebrant continues, concluding as follows)*...therefore we
proclaim the mystery of faith:

CHRIST HAS DIED!

CHRIST IS RISEN!

CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN!

We celebrate the memorial *(the celebrant continues, concluding as follows)*...now and forever.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE BREAKING OF BREAD AND TAKING OF THE CUP

THE GIVING OF BREAD AND THE CUP

*(Everyone is welcome at the Lord's Table.
Please come forward at the direction of the
ushers. Communion will be by intinction...
dipping the bread into the cup.)*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*HYMN *We've A Story To Tell* No. 410

*THE BLESSING

POSTLUDE *I Believe in One God* J.S. Bach

* The people standing

++ Interval for seating

The congregation is welcome to remain seated for the
Postlude.

Hosting the Coffee Hour are Irene MacLellan and
Icylin Henry.

*HYMN *God Moves in a Mysterious Way* No. 215

NEW TESTAMENT

Luke 7:11-17

SERMON

"Do Not Weep"

Ms. Gaskell

RESPONSES

*HYMN

Lord, Speak To Me

No. 195

COMMISSIONING OF LAY AND CLERGY MEMBERS TO ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

The charge to the members:

WE SEND YOU FORTH AS LAY AND CLERGY MEMBERS
OF THE 1983 SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL
CONFERENCE. YOU REPRESENT THIS CONGREGATION.
YOU ALSO REPRESENT THE LIFE OF THE WHOLE
CHURCH. WE CHARGE YOU: TO BE RESPONSIBLE
IN YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THE SESSIONS; TO USE
YOUR PARTICIPATION AND YOUR VOTES WISELY,
TO FURTHER GOD'S WORK OF PEACE, LOVE, AND
JUSTICE BOTH HERE AND ABROAD; AND TO RE-
PORT BACK TO US THE WORK AND RESULTS OF THE
CONFERENCE SESSION. WE SEND YOU FORTH WITH
OUR BLESSING AND SUPPORT IN THIS WORK, AND
LOOK TO SEE YOU SAFELY BACK WITH US SOON.

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

GRANT US WISDOM, GRANT US COURAGE
FOR THE LIVING OF THESE DAYS,
FOR THE LIVING OF THESE DAYS.

OPPORTUNITIES AT OLD WEST

OFFERTORY

Batalla Imperial

Ker11

*PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING (Tune:Hyfrydol)

HOLY GHOST, DISPEL OUR SADNESS,
PIERCE THE CLOUDS OF NATURE'S NIGHT.
COME, THOU SOURCE OF JOY AND GLADNESS,
BREATHE THY LIFE, AND SPREAD THY LIGHT.
FROM THE HEIGHT WHICH KNOWS NO MEASURE
AS A GRACIOUS SHOWER DESCEND,
BRINGING DOWN THE RICHEST TREASURE
WE CAN WISH, OR GOD CAN SEND.

AUTHOR OF THE NEW CREATION,
COME WITH UNCTION AND WITH POWER.
MAKE OUR HEARTS THY HABITATION,
ON OUR SOULS THY GRACES SHOWER.
HEAR, O HEAR OUR SUPPLICATION,
BLESSED SPIRIT, GOD OF PEACE!
REST UPON THIS CONGREGATION
WITH THE FULLNESS OF THY GRACE.

HOLY COMMUNION

*THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God is with you.

AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Lift up your hearts.

WE LIFT THEM UP TO GOD.

Let us give thanks to God, our Creator.

IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE THANKS AND PRAISE.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing
(*the celebrant continues, concluding as follows*)...to proclaim the glory of your
Name:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, GOD OF POWER AND MIGHT.

HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY.

HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST!

BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO COMES IN THE NAME
OF GOD.

HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST!

CHURCH COMMITTEES

BOARD MEMBERS - AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

1. Finance Committee and Treasurer

Treasurer and Asst. Treasurer - Supervision, support and assistance to the Committee in its work of fund raising, pledge drives, etc. Enlist lay people, exhorters and deacons.

2. Physical Plant Committee (Treasurer and Finance Committee)

Assume responsibility for the Insurance factors, maintenance and protection (security, etc.) of the building. Maintain records (calendar) for building use, use deacons and exhorters.

3. Fellowship and Special Activities - (Board Member I)

Assume responsibility for fund raising events, concerts, trips, etc. Assume responsibility for the coffee hour, hospitality, and church dinners. Work with the Deacons and Exhorters to assure that these run smoothly. Enlist lay people for these activities.

4. Outreach and Evangelism

Church Clerk: Induction of new members, maintenance of church records regarding members. Information and public relations activities. Act as Vice Moderator, liaison with pastor.

Board Member II. (Liaison with Deacons/Exhorters)

Oversee Prison Ministry, help Chaplains and Area Reps. to enlist laity for help in this ministry.

Help with and/or oversee Women's Ministry, with help of Exhorter/Diacons assigned to this ministry.

Oversee Visitation activities, work with Deacons.

5. Education

Work with Pastor, Exhorters, and Deacons involved in work of this committee. Advise, provide financial support from Board, for growth groups, Advent and Lenten groups, Bible studies, retreats, church library services, speakers, etc.

6. Social Action

Work with Pastor, Exhorters, and laity involved in the work of this committee. Help with financial affairs of the committee. Work on political action, fund raising, etc. for this committee.

7. Worship Committee

Oversee preparations for worship, opening of the church, etc. Liaison with music committee (expenditures for music, organist, etc.) Financial needs for worship supplies, etc.

CONFIDENTIAL - SECURITY INFORMATION

1. General Situation and Trends

The general situation in the country is characterized by a high level of political and economic activity. The government has implemented a series of measures to improve the living standards of the population and to strengthen the national defense. The economy is showing signs of recovery, and the political system is becoming more stable.

The government has also taken steps to improve the education system and to promote scientific research. The results of these efforts are beginning to show, and the country is moving towards a more prosperous and stable future.

The political system is becoming more stable, and the government is implementing a series of measures to improve the living standards of the population. The economy is showing signs of recovery, and the political system is becoming more stable.

2. Political Situation and Trends

The political situation in the country is characterized by a high level of political and economic activity. The government has implemented a series of measures to improve the living standards of the population and to strengthen the national defense. The economy is showing signs of recovery, and the political system is becoming more stable.

3. Economic Situation and Trends

The economic situation in the country is characterized by a high level of political and economic activity. The government has implemented a series of measures to improve the living standards of the population and to strengthen the national defense. The economy is showing signs of recovery, and the political system is becoming more stable.

4. Social Situation and Trends

The social situation in the country is characterized by a high level of political and economic activity. The government has implemented a series of measures to improve the living standards of the population and to strengthen the national defense. The economy is showing signs of recovery, and the political system is becoming more stable.

5. Cultural Situation and Trends

The cultural situation in the country is characterized by a high level of political and economic activity. The government has implemented a series of measures to improve the living standards of the population and to strengthen the national defense. The economy is showing signs of recovery, and the political system is becoming more stable.

6. Environmental Situation and Trends

The environmental situation in the country is characterized by a high level of political and economic activity. The government has implemented a series of measures to improve the living standards of the population and to strengthen the national defense. The economy is showing signs of recovery, and the political system is becoming more stable.

7. International Situation and Trends

The international situation in the country is characterized by a high level of political and economic activity. The government has implemented a series of measures to improve the living standards of the population and to strengthen the national defense. The economy is showing signs of recovery, and the political system is becoming more stable.

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

As part of its program dealing with racism, the Social Action Committee will sponsor and fund the third racism workshop, to be held on the third Sunday in November. The workshop will be open to all non-Third World interested people. Participants in previous workshops have found them to be very practical, execting, and enriching.

Ernest Lessa remains active with the Old West Drop-in Center, serving on The Board of Directors as Treasurer, and as staff person at the Monday night meal.

The Women's Growth Group was formed as result of discussions concerning sexism and communication, and at present meets on the first and third Sundays of the month.

Also discussed, but temporarily tabled pending funding, was support of GLAD.

The Social Action Committee meets on the fourth Sunday of each month. The meetings are open to all those interested in either present programs or in initiating new projects.

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UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES
5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029

PROFESSIONAL MINISTRY EVALUATION FORM

Applicant's Name: Leslie Phillips

Date: March 7, 1983

I. Evaluator's relationship to Applicant (check one)

(Evaluations are required from each appropriate source listed.)

(Applicants may apply for license as a minister even if they do not receive affirmative recommendations from the evaluators)

- ☐ Self
☒ Board of Directors (where applicant is member)
☐ Board of Directors (where applicant serves, if different)
☐ Pastor
☐ Former Pastor (if Pastor has changed in last three months)
☐ Other
☐ District Coordinator (if for re-license)
☐ Reference from former Denomination (if transferring)

II. Rate the applicant from 1 to 5 for each category below, (1 is the highest or best rating and 5 is the lowest or worst rating) by placing an X in the appropriate column. If you feel there is insufficient information, or if a category does not apply to the applicant being rated, place an X under UE (unable to evaluate). On an attached piece of paper, feel free to make a comment on any rating.

A. Personal Awareness

	1	2	3	4	5	UE
Dependability	///	//				
Creativity		//				///
Adaptability		///	/			
Resourcefulness		///	/			
* Ability to say "no"	/	//				//
Feeling of acceptance:						
1. by congregation	/	//	//			
2. by community	/	//	/			/
Capacity to deal with:						
* 1. anger		///	/			/
* 2. authority		///				//
* 3. ambiguity, ability to live with	///	//				
4. new ideas		///				/
5. conflicts		///	/			/
* 6. alternate lifestyles	//	//	/			
7. differing points of view	/	//	/	/		
Self Control						
* 1. chemical dependency	///	/				
2. confidentiality	///	/				
3. time management	//	//		/		
4. financial management	/	//				//
* 5. positive health habits	///	/				/
6. emotional stability	/	//	/			/

Self

1. reliance
2. acceptance
3. initiative
4. criticism

1 2 3 4 5 UE

	1	2	3	4	5	UE
1. reliance	///	/		/		
2. acceptance	//	/	//			
3. initiative	///	/				/
4. criticism	/	//				//

B. Ministry

Worship

1. preparation
2. delivery
* 3. flexibility
4. preaching

5. communion

a. serving

b. consecration

Serving

1. attitude
2. followthrough
3. ability to relate to others
4. concern for others
5. ability to communicate

Particular responsibilities:

1. _____
2. _____

	1	2	3	4	5	UE
1. preparation	///	/				/
2. delivery	//	//				/
* 3. flexibility		///	/			
4. preaching		///				/
5. communion						
a. serving	///	/	/			/
b. consecration	//	/	/			/
Serving						
1. attitude	/	//	/	/		
2. followthrough	//	//	/			
3. ability to relate to others		///		/		
4. concern for others	/	///				/
5. ability to communicate	/	///				
Particular responsibilities:						
1. _____						
2. _____						

* Clarification of Terminology:

Ability to say "no" - confident and forceful enough to give a negative response when doing so is indicated and best

Anger - comfortable in expressing one's own anger or handling anger expressed by others

MCC-Boston Student Clergy Evaluation
Leslie Phillips
3/7/83

Following are personal comments from MCC Boston Vestry members:

Speaking from the vantage point of a founder, Board member, and 11-year voting member of MCC Boston, I give my strongly favorable recommendation that Leslie Phillips be licensed as a Metropolitan Community Church minister. She has performed very well in Boston. A few minor flaws or instances of misunderstanding have occurred; but never a serious mistake or problem. And, these minor flaws were due to the unnecessarily-confused MCC red tape and systems, not to any faults in Leslie as a person. Although I am displeased with the way in which MCC ministers handled the transference of Leslie from Philadelphia to Princeton to Boston, I am pleased and impressed with Leslie's performance during same. As a final comment, the evaluation form I was asked to use was superficial, inadequate, and should be replaced by a more sophisticated, adequate device.

Jim Hayes

Leslie Phillips has developed a public persona of a masterful woman competent to achieve goals and maneuver politically. While often increasing willingness to defer to her out of respect for that same mastery, this persona limits another's ability to share both the Christ within her and their common humanity. Leslie needs to develop a public attitude of trust in other's ability to see the Light within her in order to minister more personally.

Arthur Allen

Since I do not know Leslie too well either personally and/or professionally and since her presence at MCC Boston has not been a long one I am somewhat restricted in my comments about her. However, I can comment on what I have seen and my reactions to the interview with her and the board earlier.

Leslie seems intelligent, capable, rational person. I would say she has some future promise in the ministry even though she indicated her field of work may not be in the area of License and/or Ordained Ministry. Growth in the area of interaction with other persons needs more study/experience. Has a knowledge of Church workings. Do not know of any lover relationship. I would say she possesses a seriousness of purpose in the Church and should be given the opportunity to Minister to the Church (Congregation) in the areas of her study and interest.

Martin Porter

MCC-Boston Student Clergy Evaluation

Leslie Phillips

3/7/83

I have known Leslie Phillips for approximately two years and have found Leslie to have the qualifications and attributes necessary to be an excellent MCC clergyperson. Her years of MCC involvement have validly defined her direction to the Christian gay ministry. She exhibits a seriousness of purpose and demeanor to represent MCC well in both the gay and straight communities. I know nothing of Leslie's lover relationships.

I feel Leslie needs to work on her emotional understanding of what happens to others, particularly those of social classes other than those in which Leslie has known and lived. I have seen Leslie work strenuously on this area which I and others have expressed to her. She is loving, understanding, and willing to work on those concerns we on the Vestry at MCC Boston have brought to her attention. She is operating in a role as student clergy in what could be a difficult position, but Leslie has assumed her position and carries it out with grace and caring.

Sheila Rosecrans,
Clerk

The fifth member of the Vestry, Ernie Lessa did not present a written evaluation.

March 7, 1983
The Vestry
MCC Boston
131 Cambridge Street
Boston MA 02115

9.0 ADMINISTRATION, OPERATIONS, MINUTES AND REPORTS

9.1 *Collection or Expenditure of Funds.* Before collecting, committing or expending funds for any purpose, the Pastor or any other individual, group, church official, board, Commission or committee must obtain the written approval of the Vestry on a form to be provided by the Vestry. Persons, groups or Commissions desiring to use Church funds shall prepare a proposal for how such funds will be used, and submit it to the Vestry as part of their request.

All church funds will be given into the custody of the Church Treasurer, along with a report thereof on a form specified by the Vestry, and properly deposited in a bank account(s) as approved by the Vestry, except that the Vestry may authorize a "petty cash" fund(s) not to exceed \$20 individually nor \$50 altogether if more than one fund is authorized. After these amounts have been spent, and before the petty cash funds are replenished, a report may be required by the Vestry. Written receipts must be kept for all petty cash expenditures.

A detailed report shall be made to the Church Treasurer by any official or other individual or group that expends church funds, within 30 days of the expenditure of such funds.

9.2 Minutes shall be kept of all meetings by all church boards, Commissions and committees. Such minutes shall be submitted to the Church Clerk in a clear and legible form within 10 days of such meeting.

9.3 *Treasurer's Report.* The Church Treasurer shall make a full written report on church finances each month to the Vestry. The Treasurer's report of delinquent pledges shall be sent quarterly to such delinquent persons.

9.4 *Reports to the Congregation.* The Pastor and all other church officials, boards, Commissions and committees shall make official reports to the Congregation at each regular Congregational Meeting. Such reports shall be included in the notices of the Regular Congregational Meetings.

9.5 *Church Calendar.* The Vestry shall establish and maintain an official calendar of church events. Any individual, group, board, Commission or committee wishing to schedule an official church event shall submit a request to the Pastor for inclusion of said event on the church calendar. The purpose of this review shall be to prevent scheduling conflicts, and if no such conflicts appear to exist, approval will normally be given. A monthly calendar of events shall be presented to the Congregation.

9.6 *Confidentiality.* The confidentiality of church records shall be of paramount importance at all times. The Pastor and Vestry jointly share the responsibility for maintaining the confidentiality of all records. This responsibility can not be delegated. Names, addresses, or other information about members shall not be published or released by the church without the written consent of the individual concerned. Any use of church mailing lists by other organizations or individuals is expressly prohibited.

All church records shall be kept in a secure place in the church office.

All church financial records, and the minutes of the Vestry, Commissions, boards and committees shall be available to be read in the church office by any active member of the church, except that minutes of executive sessions of the Vestry and records of any individual personal donations shall remain confidential.

Although the church assumes the responsibility for taking every reasonable precaution to insure confidentiality of records, it cannot be responsible for guaranteeing to individuals that a mistake will never occur. This risk is a responsibility which must ultimately be borne by the individuals themselves.

*Photocomposition Contributed by
Xanadu Graphics, Inc., Cambridge*

BY-LAWS of the METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

As amended through October 27, 1980

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1.0 GENERAL

1.1 *Purpose.* The purpose of these by-laws, hereinafter referred to as "local by-laws," is to supplement the "Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches," hereinafter referred to collectively as the "Fellowship By-Laws," which authorize local churches to adopt local by-laws consistent with the provisions of the Fellowship By-Laws.

1.2 *Interpretation.* Wherever these local by-laws are more restrictive or specific than the Fellowship By-Laws, the more specific or restrictive interpretation contained herein shall apply, provided that such interpretation is reasonably consistent with the Fellowship By-Laws.

1.3 *Amendment.* These by-laws may be amended at any regular or special Congregational Meeting, by two-thirds vote, provided that such amendment was submitted to the Church Clerk in writing no later than the last Vestry meeting before the official notice of the Congregational Meeting, so that such amendment may be included in the official notice. If no official notice is given, a three-quarters vote is required for amendment. (Proposed by-law amendments may themselves be amended by the Congregational Meeting, without notice of the "amendments to the amendments" having been given, if this last amendment is germane to the original amendment; no other amendment is in order.)

1.4 *Reservation of Powers.* All powers belonging to the local congregation in accord with the Fellowship By-Laws shall be reserved to the Congregational Meeting unless specifically delegated herein.

2.0 **MEMBERSHIP.** Membership in MCC Boston shall be as provided in the Fellowship By-Laws and also as more specifically provided in this section.

2.1 *Requirements and Procedures for Becoming a Member.*

2.1.1 *Contact.* A person wishing to become a member of MCC Boston should meet with the Pastor and arrange to fulfill the requirements contained herein.

2.1.2 *Requirements for Becoming a Member.* Any person desiring to become a member of MCC Boston must fulfill the following requirements:

—*Christian Baptism.* Christian Baptism shall be required. If baptism occurred other than in MCC Boston, either a "certificate of baptism," a "letter of transfer" or a "personal verification of previous baptism" will be required. If a "certificate of baptism," a "letter of transfer," or a "personal verification of previous baptism" is accepted but subsequently found to be a misrepresentation, after satisfactory evidence is presented to the Vestry the Vestry shall vote to annul such membership.

—*Orientation Sessions.* Regardless of previous church affiliation, participation in a membership workshop shall be required of each potential member of MCC Boston, and additional instruction may be required by the Pastor. The content of these sessions shall be determined by the Pastor.

2.1.3 *Public Profession of Faith and Presentation to the Congregation.* When the Pastor determines that the requirements contained in Section 2.1.2 have been fulfilled, the individual shall be presented to the Congregation, only at a worship service, and will be given the opportunity to make a public profession of faith. The Pastor shall announce in advance when such presentations to the Congregation will be made. (Note: These announcements need not contain the names of an individual or individuals.) The Congregation will be asked to affirm the granting of said membership; upon such affirmation, the individual will become a member of the Metropolitan Community Church of Boston.

2.2 *"Friends of the Church."* Provisions for becoming a "Friend of the Church" are contained in the Fellowship By-Laws. At MCC Boston the term "Associate" may be used in place of, and entirely synonymously with, the term "Friends of the Church," depending upon the preference of the individual. Persons designated as "Associates" shall be governed by the Fellowship By-Laws and local by-laws relative to "Friends of the Church." A "Friend of the Church," or "Associate," is not a member of the church and does not have the right to vote at a Congregational Meeting. "Associates" or "Friends of the Church" may serve on all committees or Commissions of the church, as a member or chairperson, except that they may not serve on the Vestry, as a Deacon, or as Church Clerk or Treasurer.

below. In addition, Ad Hoc committees to serve limited functions may be established by the Pastor with the approval of the Vestry, but the term of such Ad Hoc committees shall not exceed one year.

7.2 The Commissions of MCC Boston are intended to be working Commissions! Each Commission will have a minimum of three persons, including the chairperson. Each member of a Commission should be assigned some specific area of responsibility for which he or she will be the coordinator.

7.3 *Standing Commissions.* The Standing Commissions and their general areas of responsibility shall be as follows:

Worship. The Worship Commission will be generally advisory to the Pastor and the Pastor shall serve as ex officio chairperson. Responsibilities of the Worship Commission may include worship service; prayer meetings; ushers and greeters; altar; church music.

Finance. The Finance Commission will be generally advisory to the Vestry, and the Treasurer will be a member ex officio. Responsibilities of the Finance Commission may include fundraising; pledging; physical plant; building use, maintenance and security; church offices; Building Fund; preparation of proposed annual budget for presentation to the Vestry.

Fellowship and Special Activities. Responsibilities of the Fellowship and Special Activities Commission may include hospitality; social functions; coffee hour; special activities (e.g., special concerts).

Education. Responsibilities of the Education Commission may include growth groups; church school; Christian education; study groups; bible study; "non-worship" speakers; retreats; adult education; library and special materials.

Outreach and Evangelism. Responsibilities of the Outreach and Evangelism Commission may include special women's ministry; visitations; prison ministry; public information and public relations; induction of new members.

7.4 *Commission Chairpersons.* The chairpersons of all Commissions shall be nominated by the Pastor, approved by the Vestry, and responsible to both. Chairpersons of the Commissions shall serve one-year terms, renewable, except when removed by vote of five members of the Vestry. Commission Chairpersons shall normally be nominated by the Pastor following the Fall Congregational Meeting, and voted upon by the Vestry at its first meeting thereafter.

7.5 *Commission Meetings.* All Commissions shall hold at least one regular meeting per month, except in July and August. Records and reports shall be kept or made as provided in Section 9.

7.6 *Commission Membership.* Membership on all Commissions shall be on a volunteer basis with the approval of the Pastor and the appropriate Commission Chairperson. Church members and friends are encouraged to volunteer for Commissions by contacting the appropriate Commission Chairperson.

8.0 COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES

8.1 *Members.* The Council on Ministries shall consist of the Pastor and Assistant or Associate Pastors, Vestry, and other church officials, Deacons, and Chairpersons and members of all Standing Commissions and Ad Hoc committees.

8.2 *Meetings.* The Council on Ministries shall meet as determined by the Vestry or the Council on Ministries.

8.3 *Purpose and Function.* The purpose of the Council on Ministries shall be to provide the broadest possible forum for discussion of all church policies, programs and issues; to coordinate the work of the various church officers, boards, Commissions and committees; to collect ideas and information from the Congregation; to assist church officers, boards, Commissions and committees in their work; to evaluate the effectiveness of the church; and to develop new policies and programs, or revise existing policies and programs. The Council on Ministries shall also prepare proposals or recommendations for approval by the Vestry or Congregational Meeting whenever such approval is required. The Council on Ministries, or sub-committee thereof, shall also act where necessary as a Nominations Committee whenever elections are held at a Congregational Meeting.

8.4 *Records and Reports.* A written summary of the important issues or business discussed at Council on Ministries meetings shall be provided to the Vestry. Other records and reports shall also be made as provided in Section 9.

of the Congregation, except that the Vestry may go into a closed (executive) session whenever disclosure of the proceedings of the Vestry:

—would be detrimental to the financial interests of the church because of some specific financial negotiations currently in progress, or;

—would violate the privacy of an individual in a sensitive personal matter.

5.8.2 The Vestry may only go into executive session as outlined in 5.8.1 with a majority vote of those present at a legally constituted meeting.

5.9 *Pulpit Committee*. In the event of any Pastoral vacancy, the Vestry, and other registered active members as may be determined by the Congregational Meeting, shall serve as a pulpit committee.

6.0 CHURCH FINANCES, BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

6.1 The fiscal year of the church shall be from October 1 to September 30.

6.2 The proposed budget for the fiscal year shall be presented by the Vestry to the regular Fall Congregational Meeting. The Congregational Meeting may approve the proposed budget, approve it with amendments, request the Vestry to prepare a revised proposal, establish priorities, or take any other action that it may deem appropriate.

6.3 A budget which has been approved by the Congregational Meeting is an authorization for the Vestry to spend up to such amounts, provided that general income becomes available; but the Vestry is not authorized by such budget to spend or commit funds in excess of general income, except that for purposes of flexibility, a small running deficit may occur with respect to current bills; but a debt limit of \$500 shall not be exceeded by the Vestry unless a Congregational Meeting be called by the Vestry as soon as possible to deal with the debt.

6.4 A Congregational Meeting may, but is not required to, use the terms Basic Budget and Optional Budget together, when authorizing a budget. If such terms are used they shall have the following meaning:

(a) Items included in the Basic Budget shall be considered by the Vestry to have the highest priority, and these items shall be funded by the Vestry, up to the maximum authorized, before any items in the Optional Budget are funded;

(b) The Vestry may spend all general income in excess of the Basic Budget as it sees fit, consistent with the other provisions of these by-laws, and amounts approved by the Congregational Meeting for items in the Optional Budget shall be considered by the Vestry as advisory recommendations only.

6.5 If the Congregational Meeting does not choose to use the terms Basic Budget and Optional Budget together, the Vestry shall have the authority to adjust the suggested budget priorities as it sees fit between Congregational Meetings, subject to Section 6.3.

6.6 The Vestry shall conduct a quarterly review of church finances and report to the Congregation concerning income, expenditures, and their relationship to the authorized budget, by budget item, along with any recommendations for change.

6.7 *Savings Accounts*. The Vestry shall have the power to establish one or more savings accounts, in its discretion.

6.8 *Building Fund*. The purpose of the Building Fund is for the purchase and/or major repair/remodeling of property; and not for maintenance or upkeep of property, rent, or other operating expenses. However, in a financial emergency, the Vestry may authorize borrowing from the Building Fund to be repaid as soon as funds become available.

6.9 *Titheable Income*. The definition of titheable income for purposes of establishing the Fellowship tithe (and the District assessment) shall be all income except the following funds (and these exceptions shall only be allowed if the funds are designated by the donor at the time of donation): —Building Fund; —Deacon's Fund; —Fees which cover actual direct costs of a specific service provided to the donor (e.g., conference or retreat registrations; or rent of church for Holy Union service).

If any such designated funds are transferred to the general fund, a Fellowship tithe and District assessment shall be paid on the amount transferred, at the time of transfer.

7.0 COMMISSIONS

7.1 There shall be five standing Commissions of MCC Boston as specified

2.3 Membership Review

2.3.1 The Vestry shall review the entire membership, in accordance with the Fellowship By-Laws, before each regular Congregational Meeting, in order to update the list of active members, and may do so at other times as they deem appropriate, except that such reviews must be conducted at least one month prior to a Congregational Meeting, in order to provide adequate time for notification and appeal.

2.3.2 The requirements for maintaining active membership, which are defined in the Fellowship By-Laws, must have been fulfilled within the period of six months preceding such membership review.

3.0 MINISTRY

3.1 Clergy

3.1.1 Pastor (reserved)

3.1.2 *Assistant and Associate Pastors*. The term "Assistant Pastor" applies to that professional minister in UFMCC who holds the position directly after the Pastor and assumes the responsibilities of the Pastor in the Pastor's absence. The term "Associate Pastor" applies to professional ministers in UFMCC who are on the pastoral staff of a local church.

3.2 Lay Ministry

3.2.1 *Deacons*. (a) Deacons shall be nominated by the Pastor and approved by the Vestry. Terms, qualifications, requirements and duties of Deacons shall be as provided in the Fellowship By-Laws. Membership on the Board of Deacons shall be reviewed by the Vestry annually. (b) The number of Deacons may vary, but the minimum shall be three active members. (c) The Deacons shall elect from among their own number, for a one-year renewable term, a chairperson. (d) Deacons may serve simultaneously on any other committee or Commission of the Church, except on the Vestry.

3.2.2 Exhorters (reserved)

4.0 CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

4.1 *When Held*. A minimum of two regular Congregational Meetings shall be held during each twelve-month period beginning in September, the first of which shall always be held in the Fall, in September, October or November, and the other of which shall always be held in the Spring, in March, April or May. Any Congregational Meeting may decide, by majority vote, to schedule other Congregational Meetings in addition to the minimum required. If the Congregational Meeting does not determine precise dates for future Congregational Meetings, these may be determined by the Vestry, subject to all of the other requirements contained in these by-laws.

A special Congregational Meeting may be called at any time by the Vestry only; and a special meeting must be called by the Vestry whenever a special petition is presented as provided in the Fellowship By-Laws. The date set for a special meeting called as a result of petition shall be no later than 45 days after presentation of said petition.

4.2 *Notice*. Notice of all Regular or Special Congregational Meetings must be delivered to all active members no less than two weeks in advance.

Notice for regular Congregational Meetings shall include the time and place of the meeting; reports of the Pastor, Assistant and Associate Pastors, Treasurer, Clerk and other church officers and chairpersons of committees or Commissions; and the proposed agenda of the meeting as approved by the Vestry. If an election is to be held, notice shall also contain the report of the Nominations Committee.

4.3 *Agenda*. A proposed agenda for each regular Congregational Meeting shall be drawn up by the Vestry. Additional items may be placed on the agenda from the floor of the Congregational Meeting; but such items shall be taken up after the proposed agenda drawn up by the Vestry, unless the Congregational Meeting votes to consider such an item in some other order. In drawing up the proposed agenda, the Vestry shall request recommendations and proposals from the Council on Ministries and from the Congregation as a whole.

4.4 *Voting*. Only active members of the church may vote at a Congregational Meeting. A quorum shall be as defined below. All questions shall be determined by a majority of the votes cast, except as provided in Section 1.3 concerning Amendment of these by-laws. No proxy voting is allowed.

<i>Number of Active Members</i>	<i>Quorum</i>
Under 100	40% of the active members
100-119	40 active members
120-179	33 1/3 % of the active members
180-239	60 active members
240-319	25% of the active members
320-399	80 active members
400 or more	20% of the active members

5.0 THE VESTRY AND CHURCH OFFICERS

5.1 The Vestry of MCC Boston shall be that body referred to in the Fellowship By-Laws as the Board of Directors of the Local Church.

5.2 The Vestry shall consist of seven laypersons elected by the Congregational Meeting, including the Church Clerk and Treasurer, plus, ex officio, the Pastor and any Assistant or Associate Pastor as designated by the Pastor. The Pastor and Assistant or Associate Pastor shall be non-voting members of the Vestry, except that:

- in the case of a tie, the Pastor may cast a tie-breaking vote; and,
- in the case of a tie, the Pastor being absent, a designated Assistant or Associate Pastor may cast a tie-breaking vote if so authorized by the Pastor.

5.3 *Term of Office, Vacancies.* The term of office of Vestrypersons, and provisions for filling vacancies on the Vestry, shall be as provided in the Fellowship By-Laws, and as further provided in these local by-laws. A vacancy on the Vestry other than Church Treasurer may be filled through election by the Vestry of a qualified layperson, until the next regular Congregational Meeting, at which time a person shall be elected by the Congregational Meeting to fill out the unexpired vacant Vestry term. Any person so elected by the Vestry may run for the unexpired term, if nominated, or may run, if nominated, for a full term on the Vestry if such term is open for election. The order of elections for Vestrypersons at a Congregational Meeting shall be: (a) first, for Church Treasurer (if open); (b) second, for all three-year terms that are vacant; (c) third, for any unexpired, partial terms that are vacant.

5.4 *Duties and Responsibilities.* The duties and responsibilities of the Vestry shall be as defined in Article V of the Fellowship By-Laws and as further specified herein.

5.5 Church Officers

5.5.1 Church Treasurer, Functions and Duties:

To receive and bank all moneys due, including offerings, gifts, receipts from special events, and all other receipts.

To keep bookkeeping records of all such funds.

To pay wherever possible by checks, which must be countersigned by the Pastor, Assistant Treasurer or Clerk.

To pay bills only when clearly authorized and when receipts for expenditures are attached.

To disburse all moneys as the Vestry or Congregational Meeting may direct.

To give a monthly statement of finances to the Vestry.

To give a complete financial report to the Congregational Meeting at the end of each fiscal year, and at other times as requested by the Vestry or a Congregational Meeting. An audit may be required at any time by the Vestry or a Congregational Meeting.

To keep a record of all pledging members.

To make provisions for collections at worship services and at other meetings.

To prepare and send out quarterly pledge status reports to individuals.

To prepare quarterly pledge summary reports for the Vestry and the Finance Commission.

To send out bills when due.

5.5.2 Church Treasurer, Term of Office and Election

The Church Treasurer shall be elected for a three-year term concurrent with a specific three-year term as Vestryperson; and a vacancy in the position of Church Treasurer, whether through resignation, death, removal or other cause, shall be declared to be a vacancy in such concurrent Vestry position. If a vacancy occurs during the term of the Church Treasurer, this vacancy shall be filled by Vestry election of a qualified lay member of the church, who shall serve as

Treasurer and Vestryperson until the next regular Congregational Meeting, at which time a person shall be elected according to procedures contained in this section relative to election of Church Treasurer, to serve out the unexpired part of the vacated term as Treasurer and as Vestryperson. If an existing Vestryperson is elected as Treasurer to fill such vacancy, that person's original term shall become vacant.

Nominations of at least two (2) qualified laypersons for the position of Church Treasurer shall be made by the Vestry and included in the published notification of a Congregational Meeting at which a Church Treasurer is to be elected. There will be no nominations from the floor of the Congregational Meeting. Election shall be by majority of those voting at the Congregational Meeting.

5.5.3 Assistant Church Treasurer

An Assistant Church Treasurer may be appointed by the Vestry for a renewable one-year term from among the registered active members of the church. The duties of the Assistant Church Treasurer shall be to assist the Church Treasurer in any of the responsibilities outlined above.

5.5.4 Bonding of Church Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be bonded to a limit of five thousand dollars (\$5,000). The Vestry may waive this requirement by unanimous vote of all other Vestry members.

5.5.5 Church Clerk, Functions and Duties (reserved)

5.5.6 Church Clerk, Election

The position of Church Clerk shall be filled through election by the Vestry, from among their own number. The term of Church Clerk shall be one year, renewable, or to fill an unexpired term of lesser duration, to be determined by the Vestry.

5.5.7 Assistant Church Clerk

An Assistant Church Clerk may be appointed by the Vestry from among the registered active members of the Church for a renewable one-year term.

5.5.8 Lay Delegate and Alternate Lay Delegate

A Lay Delegate and an Alternate Lay Delegate to NEDC and to the General Conference of UFMCC shall be elected for "half year" terms, and the positions will thus come up for election at both the Fall and Spring Congregational Meetings.

5.5.9 Nominations for Vestry and Church Officers, and Qualifications for Office

Whenever elections are to be held at a Congregational Meeting, the Council on Ministries shall act as a Nominations Committee for Vestrypersons (other than Church Treasurer), for Lay Delegate and for Alternate Lay Delegate. Nominations proposed by the Council on Ministries shall be submitted to the Vestry for review, and if approved by the Vestry shall then be presented to the Congregational Meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor of the Congregational Meeting, except in the case of Church Treasurer. Church officers must be registered active members of the church.

5.5.10 Removal for Cause

Any church officer governed by the provisions of Section 5.5 may be removed for cause by the Vestry, but only by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of a duly constituted Vestry meeting, and also provided that:

(a) an opportunity for a Vestry hearing has been offered to such officer; and,

(b) all Vestrypersons have been notified that a removal vote will be taken, at least two weeks in advance.

If a church officer is removed for cause, the office shall be declared vacant and procedures as described elsewhere in Section 5.5 shall be followed to fill such office.

5.6 *Quorum.* A quorum of the Vestry shall consist of four laypersons plus the Pastor or the designated Assistant or Associate Pastor.

5.7 *When To Meet.* Regular meetings of the Vestry shall be held once each month on the second Sunday of the month. In special circumstances a regular meeting may be postponed for one week. Special meetings may be held provided that all members are duly notified in advance.

5.8 Open to Congregation

5.8.1 Meetings of the Vestry shall be open to all registered active members